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Mac ADDICT

39



NOV/99

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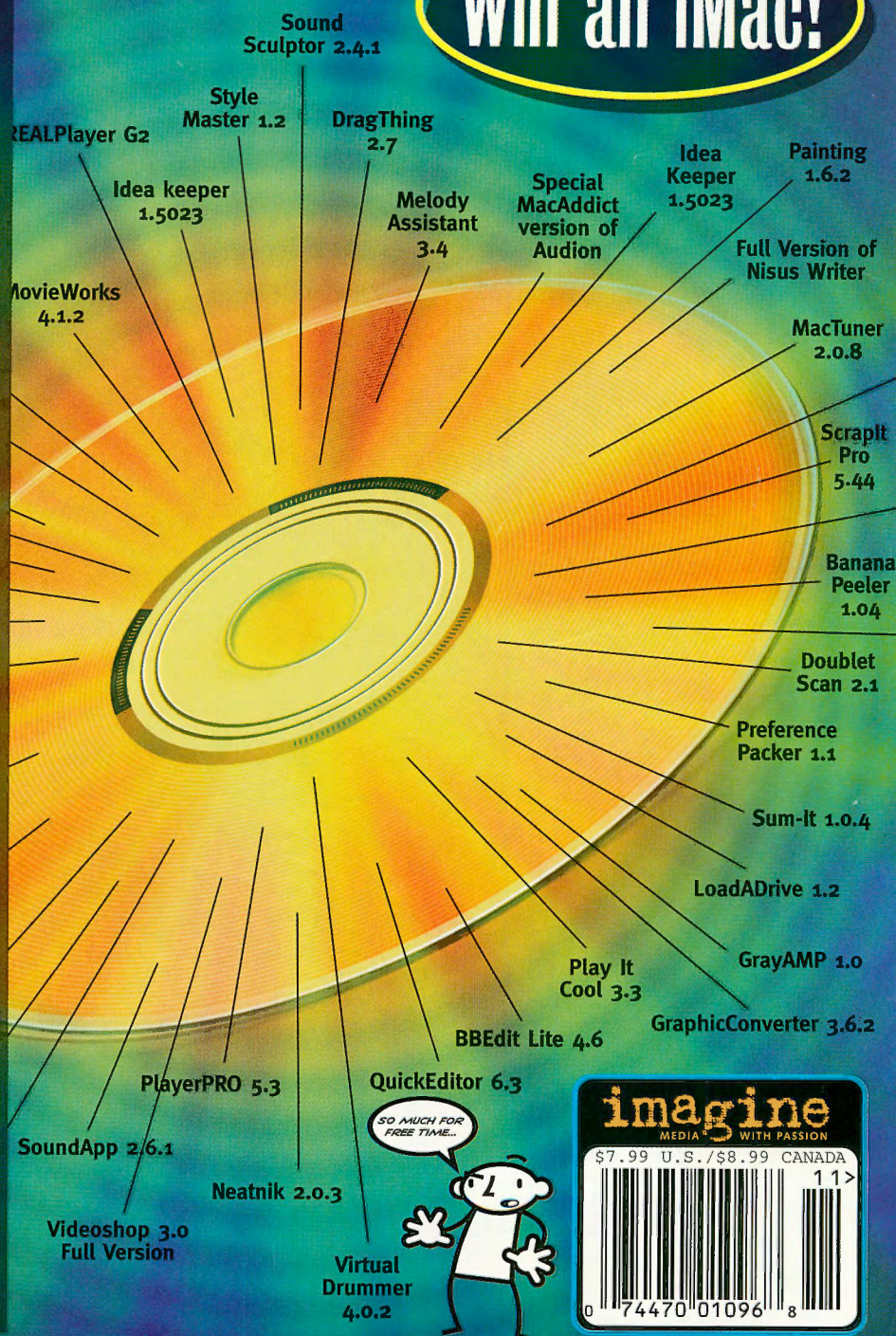
33 MUST
HAVE
PROGRAMS
AND HOW TO USE THEM!

18 alternatives to expensive
apps like Photoshop,
Illustrator, and Word

7 tools to turn your Mac into
an audio-video powerhouse

8 programs that will help you
organize your Mac

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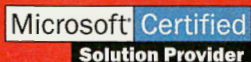


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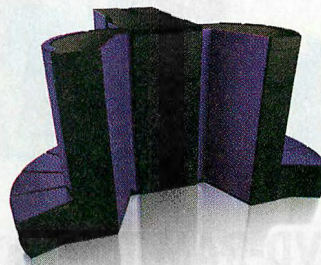
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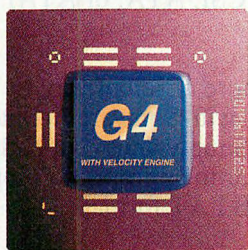
Presenting the Power Mac G4. The world's first desktop supercomputer.

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The secret of this stunning speed is the new G4 processor with its Velocity Engine™—the heart of a supercomputer miniaturized onto a sliver of




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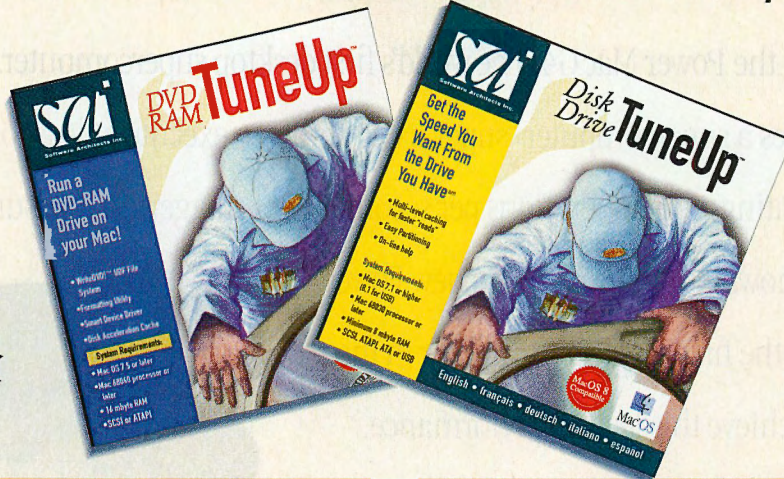
silicon. Applications that tap the Velocity Engine's power typically run twice as fast as they do on the fastest Pentium III-based PCs: Common Photoshop tasks, for example, run twice as fast. And using a set of Intel's own tests, the 500MHz G4 chip was 2.94 times as fast as the 600MHz Pentium III processor. Chances

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(DVD-RAM disk utilities are also available for Win 95, 98 and now NT)

DVD-RAM TuneUp requires Mac OS 7 or higher; Disk Drive TuneUp Mac 7.1 or higher & 8.1 for USB.

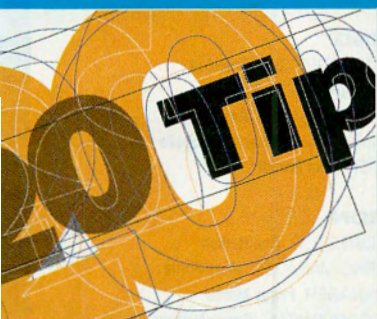
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HI, KIDS—do you like granola?



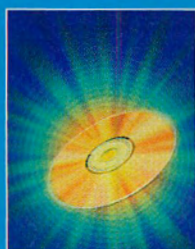
DO NOT ADJUST the color on your set...



NO, WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT a new style of Q-tip.



I TOLD YOU to put the milk away!



OUR SPECTACULAR CD COVER IMAGE was skillfully created by our old friend Tom White.

NOVEMBER 1999

highlights

32 Alternative Software

Tired of paying The Man big bucks for the privilege of participating in the software industrial complex? Instead of getting mad as hell, don't take it anymore. Investigate our software alternatives and you won't be beholden to big bit-ness any longer. **BY DAVID REYNOLDS**

40 It Conquers All

The G4, that is. The successor to the venerable G3 has made it onto the motherboard of your favorite computer platform. We go through this redesigned Mac bit by bit to tell you what the G4—and its Pentium-crushing Velocity Engine—can do for you. **BY DAVID REYNOLDS**

44 ANALize Your Mac: 20 Tips

That Mac of yours is a heaping stew of extensions, files, and aliases. It's time to clean up messy Bessy, and we've got 20 terrific tips for tightening, trimming, and organizing that bloated, sloppy Mac. **BY KEVIN SAVETZ**

50 Ultimate Cyberspud

Tired of sitting home on Saturday night staring at your desktop pattern, hoping it will change? We could tell you to get a life, but instead we'll show you how to take advantage of the best Web media out there. **BY DAVID REYNOLDS**

how to

84 Get Textural with the Add Noise Filter

Need wood grain? Mud? Water? Mimic these spiffy textures in less than 5 minutes using nothing but the standard filters that come with Photoshop. **BY DAVID REYNOLDS**

92 Save Your Old Data with EtherTalk

Floppies are dead, says Steve Jobs. Guess he doesn't have a ton of files to transfer to a brand-new iMac. If you do, check out our guide to setting up an Ethernet network. **BY BUZ ZOLLER**

94 Make Microsoft Word Usable

Bloated, confusing, annoying—adjectives often applied to Microsoft Word. Not after we're through customizing it, though. **BY DAVID REYNOLDS**

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Volume 4, Issue 11

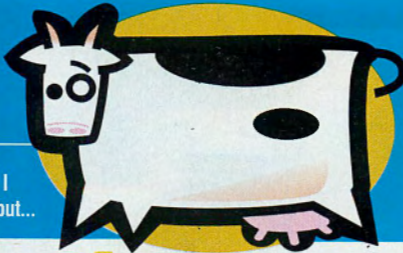
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HAVE YOU SEEN CLARUS? I
waited in the icon garden, but...



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12 Editor's Note

Oooo...the G4! Now that's progress!

14 Letters

Is there a sane person among you? We're really starting to doubt it.

20 Get Info

Mac OS 9! G4s! Apple finally sues iMac ripoffs! Plus instant messaging insanity, the truth behind flaky USB devices, and a chance to win an iMac loaded with games!

30 Scrapbook

If you've never been to a Steve Jobs keynote speech and bathed in his glorious reality-distortion field, here's your chance. We call out all the interesting tidbits you might find at a typical Jobs-athon and tell you what each one means.

58 Reviews

We feast our eyes on the Wired 4DVD home theater kit, take a look at the ix3D Dual Monitor card, and try to find fault with two USB floppy drives. Our reviewers also pick apart updates to Photoshop, Poser, TechTool Pro, DiskLock, and Spell Catcher—woohoo!

82 PowerPlay

MacAddict takes an exclusive first look at Madden NFL 2000, the long-awaited sports game from Electronic Arts and Aspyr Media, and it looks brutally good. Plus we get the scoop on Leggo My Myth and give you some Age of Empires cheats. And we're looking for a few good screenshots.

98 Ask Us

You ask and sometimes we answer. This month learn how to strip ad banners out of Sherlock, add serial ports to your blue-and-white G3, and upgrade that PowerBook 3400.

128 Shutdown

Chortles, laughs, and guffaws—if you're looking for these, you might want to check out the new Eddie Izzard comedy special on HBO. Then come back here for the capper.

Mac
ADDICT 39
THE TEAM

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Dave, it's time to reformat your hard drive. How many DRs are we gonna hire around here? Congrats, Nikki and Sean.



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the disc



It's Turkey Time! So Gobble, Gobble, Gobble Up These Morsels...

highlights

Audion 1.0 Demo (MacAddict Edition)

You got your MP3 players, your audio CD players, your streaming MP3 players....Hey, I know! How about someone puts 'em all together? Well, the folks at Panic do just that and then some with Audion. This ultrahip player also features a playlist, a built-in streams directory, an equalizer, CDDB support, and more. But the real icing is the way-cool interchangeable face plates, including one created exclusively for you, dear readers. Make sure Audion's sporting the MacAddict face plate when you're listening to streams. Rock on, Max!

Strata MediaPaint 1.1.2 Full Version

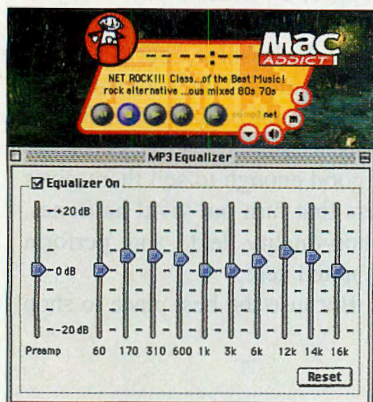
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Goofy Golf Deluxe Demo

What happens when the world of miniature golf and Gumby collide? You get this entertaining claymation odyssey, which plays through 54 holes of wacky fun (in the full version). This animated mini golf simulation gives you control of your swing and direction, and will have you putting around one of the most unique courses ever. Plus it's got enough obstacles such as frogs, pinball bumpers, dragons, and windmills to really tee you off!

Studio Artist 1.0 Demo

Ooooooh...ahhhhhh! Repeat it with me, 'cuz this is what you'll be uttering when you fire up this way-cool artsy-fartsy program. This paint-synthesizing, drawing, and image- and video-processing package uses intelligent assisted drawing technology that will have you churning out amazing eye candy in no time—even if you lack drawing skills. Paint artistic impressions of your photos with complete control by merely scrawling with your mouse or graphics pen, let your brush ooze organic wet paints that mix and smear, even create stunning video effects with autorotoscoping. In a nutshell, all we can say is "Wow!"



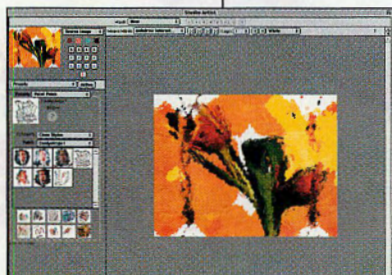
Max can dance—thanks to a lot of Panic and a caffeine injection!



Dave's steady lentil diet sure caused quite an explosion in New York.



He was once a little blue-and-yellow ball of clay...



Take your frustrations out on your mousepad, and out pops art!



Ch-ch-ch-changes! Okay, this month's staff video is short and sweet—mainly because there were so many megabytes of stuff we felt compelled to give away that we just plain ran out of disc space. Anyway, meet the newest faces joining our whacked-out cast in this month's staff video.

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AGFA 



editor's note

Can we put my picture in that cool new flat panel? Come on...pleeeeeease...

It's been exactly two years since I joined the *MacAddict* staff, and I'm feeling nostalgic. I started about six months after Steve Jobs rejoined Apple, and about three days before Apple announced its purchase of Power Computing. It was kind of a bleak time, but back in those days I was so excited about my new job I didn't even notice.

That first week, I wrote a Web rant about how Steve Jobs would save Apple. I think I got close to 200 emails in response, most telling me what an idiot I was, and explaining that I should really do some research and think things through before babbling like a lobotomized chimp into the ether. One guy even asked me to remember how VHS killed Betamax (even though Betamax was supposedly the better technology), and claimed that Apple had only weeks left. He suggested I enjoy my new job while it lasted. Ouch.

Well, zoom forward to the present, and lo and behold, I was right (I'm such a genius!). I just returned from the announcement of the G4s, and it's clear Apple is wreaking havoc on the entire computer industry. I keep thinking that after seeing Steve Jobs speak a dozen times and sitting through half as many surprise announcements, at some point I'll get numb. Nope. I want a G4. I want one of those new 24-inch flat-panel displays. I stormed out of the announcement ready to pick a fight with the first Wintel dork I could find. Bring 'em on! Macs rule!

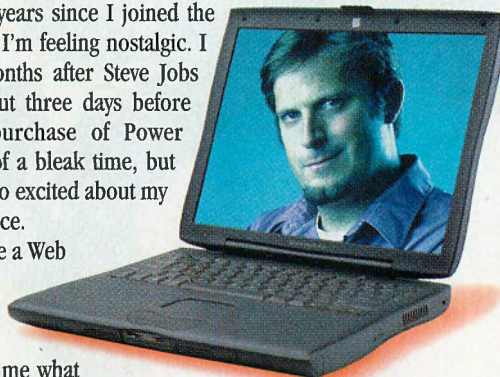
The G4 again gives a huge technical edge to Apple. With the new Velocity Engine, the processor is exponentially faster than the Pentium III and even the G3. That's pretty important. The G4 should shore up high-power publishing and graphics users, and it adds a depth Apple needs to keep. We have style, and with the G4 we also maintain substance. What tired old PC maker can compete with us now? They've got a whole industry to work on this stuff and they're getting kicked in the teeth. Consider this a somewhat immodest little celebration of just how right I was back in those first weeks.

New Cast

Of course, in those two years quite a bit has changed at *MacAddict*. I won't bore you with all the details here (again), but I would like to take a minute to introduce you to a few new staff members. The first one is Ian Sammis, our new associate editor. Ian comes to *MacAddict* from Cal Tech in LA, where he was a physics grad student studying the sun (that's the one in the sky, not the one in Palo Alto). Let's just say he's smart. After a heated discussion about electromagnetic fields he walloped me at Quake III, and I knew he was the guy for the job.

Our second addition comes in the form of an art director named David Ross. He founded his own clothing company—a skate-type brand named Blunt. In addition to laying down some jaw-dropping illustrations, David constantly litters our office with strange little counterculture stickers. He can't beat me at Quake III, but Dave Reynolds convinced me that since he's an artist that's OK. At least he tries. Perhaps he can be trained.... You'll see his style really start to come through in our pages beginning with the January 2000 issue.

I envy our new employees. They get to start here when Apple's on the upswing. I wonder what they'll have to say two years from now.



Staff Rants

To introduce you to our newest members, we thought we'd include them in our *Staff Rants* box this month. We threw in Jenifer Morgan too, because she's kinda new.



Ian Sammis

Associate Editor

Q. *Who the heck are you?*

A. I'm still picking up my job, but as far as I can tell it involves playing Quake, eating lunch, and saying "Uh-huh. Cool! Neat!" I also stare at Word documents a lot, and occasionally hit keys.

Q. *What's the strangest thing you've witnessed so far at MacAddict?*

A. Probably the weirdest was Rob abruptly saying, "OK, that's it, I'm sick of working. Let's go see a movie," followed by a general exodus from the *MacAddict* offices.



David Ross

Art Director

Q. *Who the heck are you?*

A. David Ross, just another International Man of Mystery-meat (aka Joe Friday).

Q. *What's the strangest thing you've witnessed so far at MacAddict?*

A. Probably the fact that people are actually working while a G3 tower hosting Quake 3 death matches, active and connected 24-7, sits idly by. It's sad, really.



Jenifer Morgan

Managing Editor

Q. *Who the heck are you?*

A. Call me Lucky. I'm a Californian and I happen to love raisins.

Q. *What's the strangest thing you've witnessed so far at MacAddict?*

A. It's a tie between Dave repeating, "Good morning, how are you?" 30 times in a row (the inflection varied) to test a voice key feature and Cheryl doing the jitterbug (though she's not bad at it).

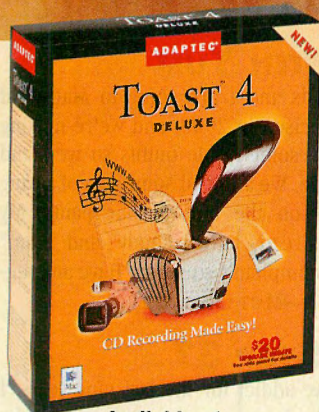
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letters

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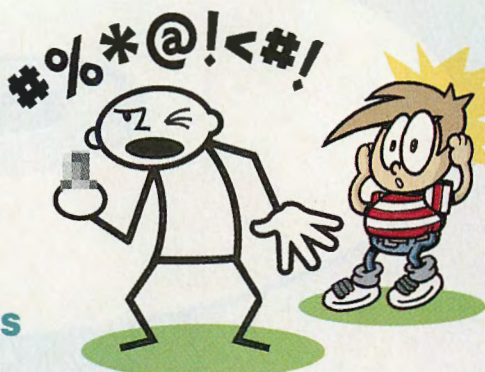
GET ON, GET ACTIVE. Talk to us and other Mac addicts at the Web site.

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE HORNS ON HIS HEAD

I was exploring the Seti@home Web site (<http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/>) the other day and thought it would be fun to enter some of the MacAddict workers' progress. To my surprise, when I entered David Reynolds's MacAddict address it came up with three units completed but he hasn't joined any groups. Shame on David for not joining the MacAddict group! Where's his support for our glorious magazine? Maybe he's a spy secretly sent by the PC folk to see what the conniving genius Mac addicts are up to. Keep him in sight. Keep your friends close and your enemies closer.—LOUIS

JUST DON'T PLAY IT BACKWARDS

If you're looking for a good laugh, try playing the final MacAddict Hour (on CD #29) in fast forward. When Nikki laughs, it is really funny!! Try it!—AMANDA DUTTON



OH, CRAP

Congrats on your three years MacAddict, but remember that it's not just adults who read your magazine. Kids, like myself, also enjoy it. I found a four-letter word that starts with "sh" and ends with "it" on page 39 of your April issue (number 5 in the area "Top 10 things said about Steve Jobs").—DARREN RUSSELL

TRY GETTING A NEWTON

You think the Palm Pilot is cool? Try pointing your Palm at a cell phone, checking your email, the weather, and the television schedule, then downloading a copy of Jared for the Newton. Can't do it? Get a Newton!

—BEN "PROUD OWNER OF 12 MACS, 3 NEWTONS, AND 1 APPLE IIGS (SIGNED BY WOZ)" KAUPP

CALL THE CEO UNION!

Apple only pays Steve Jobs a dollar a year? I always thought it was a joke, but when reading the history on <http://www.apple-history.com> it said Jobs got paid only a dollar a year too. IS THIS TRUE? Don't they at least have to pay 5 dollars an hour? I know he's filthy rich but can companies get away with that?—STEPHEN

YIKES

I recently finished a tattoo that I have been getting on my arm over the past three years. I thought that you guys would like to see... —DANIEL W. FALKOWSKI



TATOO DONE BY CLAY at Alien Art Guild, Savannah, GA.

Recently Sighted

My friend Mike Weber got ahold of an old Mac 512, and he and I decided to make a MacQuarium out of it. When finished, we decided to see if the remaining Mac guts would still work. We set it all up on the counter, plugged it in, and gingerly flipped the switch. The Mac started up perfectly, and you could even play the Puzzle!—MATTHEW JOHNSON

P.S. You know how everyone always tells you not to touch the CRT because it continues to hold charge for a long time after the Mac's shut down? They're telling the truth...

Ed Note—Don't try this at home...he ain't kidding about getting shocked.



I'M WITH YUM

My friends and I are going to Macworld San Francisco in 2000, and we're making some awesome Apple outfits so we stand out a little. We all need some sort of saying to paint on the butt of our pants. My friends already have "iCandy" and "Yum" but I'm completely stumped. Have any suggestions?—MATT CHARPENTIER

NO STEP 3?

As a Mac addict for the last nine years, I generally love your magazine and the fierce, Mac-supportive stance it takes.

Get the Winning Edge.

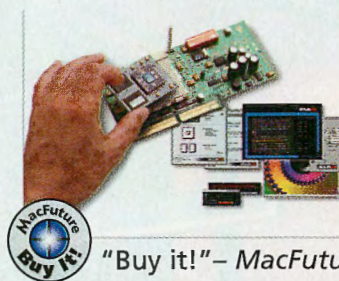


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"Buy it!" – MacFuture



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Occasionally, though, there's a bonehead moment like Joseph Holmes's comments about AOL in his September 1999 How To (page 72) which consists of three pages of directions describing how to manage your email from anywhere. Holmes writes "...travel-friendly Internet providers like AOL...well, they suck." Hmmm...yeah, AOL sucks SOOOOOO bad that to send and receive your AOL email from any Internet-connected computer (even ones without AOL software) you have to log on to the Internet, go to <http://www.aol.com/net-mail/home.html>, and...oh...that's it. That's all you have to do! You don't have to follow with three pages of directions! Yeah, that really sucks big time.—PETER LAIRD

I read your article "How To Manage Your Email From Anywhere" in the September 1999 issue (page 72). The author suggested that the user should remember 5 details: ie. user id, POP address, SMTP address, reply-to address and password. I find that it is really cumbersome to do especially when one is configuring the above settings. May I suggest that readers use <http://www.thatweb.com>, where you only need to have a user id and password to read/send email. This nifty program works for ISP-based as well as Web-based emails.—WILSON LIM

Just finished reading your article "How To Manage Your EMail From Anywhere" (issue 37) and couldn't believe you

External Mail and a procedure which guides you through all the steps.—DAVID

BUT THEY GAVE US SO MUCH MONEY!

HOW COULD YOU?!?!?!? YOU...YOU... YOU.....MAC TRAITORS! YOU LET MICROSOFT SPONSOR THE CD!! IT'S PROBABLY CHOCK FULL OF VIRUSES THAT TRY TO INSTALL WINDOWS! I'M VERY disappointed in all of you! Spank all of your hands. I'll forgive you all this one time! But NEVER, EVER do that again! BAD!

—KAGE NO KURO THE MAC JUNKIE

HOW ABOUT MAKING A CATOPOTAMUS?

I did it! I'm the king of the wooorrrld! I overclocked my iMac! So long, 233 MHz, hello trail-blazing 266! I risked disaster re-soldering a microscopic resistor on the backside of the CPU daughterboard, but it was worth it! Seti@home units now finish 20% faster! Next on the list, I'll turn my beagle into a greyhound. Or perhaps brain surgery. I can do anything!—TYLER WEST

EASY NOW, STARKY

Here's a picture of my Power Mac 7300/200 with a customized exterior paint job complete with racing stripes, inspired by your February 1999 article on painting your computer. I choose red and black because these colors are the heat. Notice the well-placed, chrome-painted power button and CD tray front.—JON INGRAM



WHAT, no fuzzy dice?

neglected to mention one of the easiest ways to check your mail while away from home. Yahoo (as well as other similar Web sites) have a function where you can check your POP mail right through the Web. In Yahoo's case, you sign up for your free Yahoo account, and once you're in your mailbox, there's an option to Check

STEVE JOBS IS A GOOD SPEAKER

While looking at past magazine reviews of speakers for the iMac, I've noticed that they have all had one thing in common: the speakers suck. And I have to agree. They're sound is no good. It seems all that the manufacturers concentrated on was looks. But I actually

found some Labtec LCS-1040 speakers that you won't find advertised for the iMac. In fact, they're not even supposed to be compatible with the iMac. But with just a regular audio-out cable, you can hook them up. Now, when you get these speakers, you'll notice that the label says USB and Windows only. Ignore that. It's not true. When you get them out of the box, hook up the left speaker to the Left Audio Out port. Then, take an audio-out cable and plug that into the Input port. Then hook the cable up to the audio-out port on your iMac—the one with the little speaker with the sound waves coming out of it. That's it. Ignore the USB cable. It's not needed. These speakers aren't bad, and they are not all that expensive. I think they're great for the iMac.

—PATRICK JOHNSON-WHITTY

IT'S A HARLEY AND ITS LOUD

Upon viewing the latest Staff Video, I couldn't help but wonder what type of motorcycle Dave rides (the leather jacket and helmet gave it away!). I can't really picture him as a Harley guy, but with the facial hair and coonskin cap—hmmm. Please enlighten your readers.

—TRENT SNOWBARGER, GALVA KS

TRY FIND BY DATE!

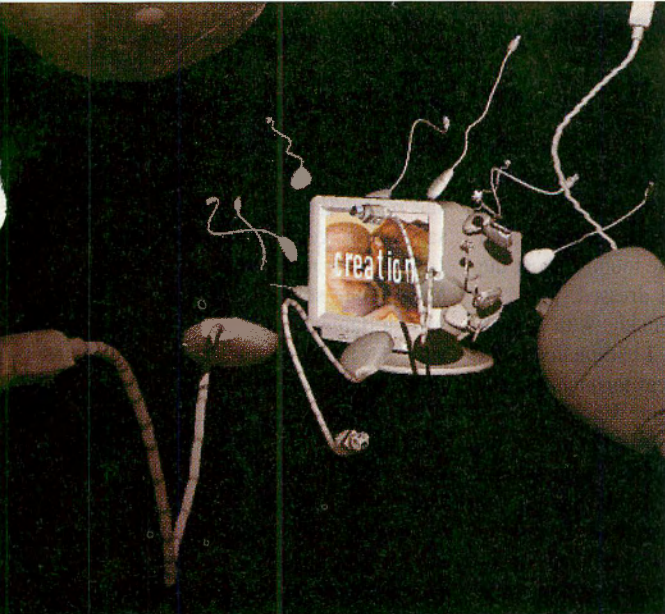
The Find By Content feature of Sherlock could be hazardous to a relationship! My partner was asleep in the other room so I gingerly did a search for my name on the PowerBook G3 using the Find By Content feature of Sherlock. I found out I was being cheated on! I found some emails referring to it. This has, in turn, caused me to be very afraid of indexing my own hard drive. I mean, most of us have some pretty personal stuff on our machines, right? Now people can find out anything if the file contains the text they are searching for. Let this be a warning!—DYLAN DRAZEN, NYC

OK, BUT NOW HE'LL GET SPAM

In the September 1999 issue, page 73, I noticed that Bilbo Baggins is registered @thehill.net. It should be @theshire.net or @hobbiton.net, or more accurately @bagend.net.—MR. TOLKIEN

WE'LL MAKE A NOTE OF THAT

I think all you high tech gurus have missed one big improvement made to the Apple 17" monitor. Yes, it is probably technically better than the old beige units, but the best part is that the new ones have a shiny glossy surface so now my post-it notes stay stuck to the front. Technology marches on.—STEVE LAWLER

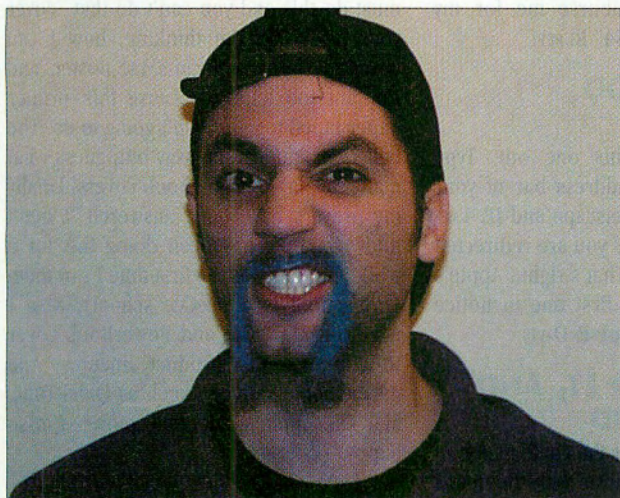


A VERY potent image.

WHAT WOULD FREUD SAY?

I couldn't help but notice how two of the greatest tools of creation looked so much alike. It was really hard to find a way to talk to others about this subject without being viewed as a freak. So I made a image of it.—MATTHEW FOLEY

YEAH, BUT WHAT ABOUT JASON O'GRADY?



"I ATE TOO MANY rocket pops!"

Our Blue and White Prison Guy can beat the crap out of your old Beige Prison Guy!—JOHN KNASICK

THANKS

I bought a brand-new, 300 MHz G3 in April, and tricked it out with everything. Now, mere months later, the new G4s come out! It's not fair! Oh well. I'll just go back to playing Q3 Test and leave you guys alone.—MATT SMITH

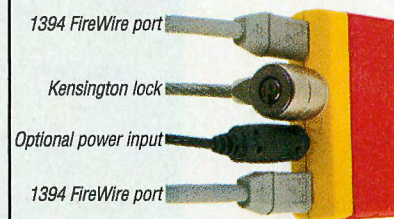
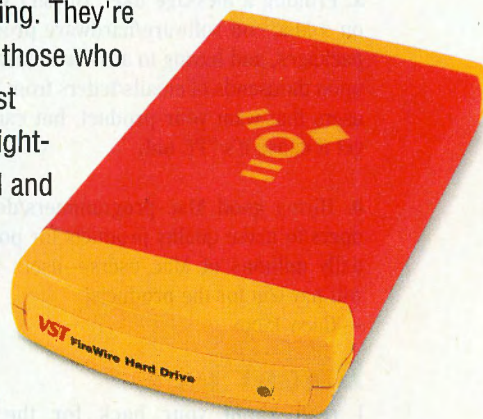
DID YOU MEET HIM ON THE DISC?

Yesterday I was looking around on your October 1997 CD and I found an interesting little novelty program named "Jared." When I heard the song, I thought, "Hey! I've heard this song before somewhere!" So I looked in the October 1997 issue and found out that it was a Guatemalan folk song. The strange thing is, I received your

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October 1997 issue the VERY day my family and I moved to Guatemala. Another strange thing is, the song's name is something like Shela-Ugh (I am 100% positive this is not how you spell it). Shela-Ugh is a city here in Guatemala, and I just happened to visit it a few days ago. Yet another strange thing is, when I moved here, I met a kid named Jared (who now happens to be my best friend). Pretty strange, huh?

—ANDY

A. No Wait, B

Which scenario would be more lucrative for a software/hardware developer:

a. Printing a message like "Doesn't work on a Mac" on software/hardware product packages, and having to answer thousands upon thousands of emails/letters from Mac users that want your product, but cannot get it cause it's "PC only."

b. Hiring good Mac programmers/developers to make quality products for potentially millions of Mac users—users who will pay you for the products!

—GINNY LYDON

BRIGHT IDEA

I read about your hack for the G3 mouse—putting an LED in there to make it glow. I decided to make the Apple logo on the front of my G3 tower glow. It didn't take too long. I had to remove the front cover, then I just measured where the apple was and drilled a hole. I decided an



STARE INTO the logo...

LED wasn't bright enough for this thing, so I used a 1.5 volt light bulb (painted red), plugged to two D-cell batteries and just set the battery case on top of the CD-ROM drive.—JOHN GALE

HARD AS LENTILS?

I think I have completely become a Mac addict. After waking up two days ago, I started brushing my teeth. It was then that I noticed that without thinking, I had picked out a Bondi Blue toothbrush at the store. After that, I got dressed. I had to pick something out quickly. With a swift movement of my hand, I had picked out a Mac OS 8.5 shirt. I went through the day feeling good, wearing my Mac OS 8.5 T-shirt and my iMac toothbrush in my pocket (just in case if I had garlic or something). I received comments all day about my breath, and some people were asking about my OS 8.5 shirt. I persuaded 3 people in 2 hours to get a new blue-and-white G3. But something was still missing, so I'm now going to order my first MacAddict hat. Apple rocks!—BRYAN GATTEN.

UMMMM...BUNNY POPS

My big boss (the guy who signs my checks) is the director of marketing for Intel! He made up the Intel bunnies! If I lock him in the walk-in freezer of my store next time he comes by, how much do you think Apple will reimburse me for my efforts?—CHRIS "001984" RUPPEL

WHY DID YOU TRY THAT?

OK, I can't figure this one out. Type "13thfloor" into the address bar of your browser (tried both Netscape and IE 4.0) and after a few seconds you are redirected to...the Mother Ship! That's right...Apple's home page. Am I the first one to notice this? Surely not!—JEFFREY P. DAVIS

YOU MISSED IT, AND IT WAS GOOD

I've waited two years for the continuation of the funny QuickTime movie with the dog. I want to know when you are going to make a sequel to "Windows World."

—PAUL THORNHILL

I THINK I'M OFFENDED

When I opened my September issue of *MacAddict*, everything seemed normal. I looked at page 6 and started to read the masthead. I usually never look at this, but this time I did. There beside "Editor," Prison Guy was printed—Robert Capps, I mean! I screamed. Then I turned to page 12. Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh! I saw Prison Guy's ugly face in *Editor's Note*. And his face inside a PowerBook? A PowerBook is portable. Prison Guy is the least portable person I know!—BJORN GUNNARSSON

GET IT ALL OUT

Hey y'all! First comment (insert "Rock Me, Amadeus" by Falco here): Your new Web site *rocks!* The layout is cool, and dare I say it, I was getting tired of the lime green (don't hurt me!). Next comment: Bye, Mark! Your stuff was cool. I noticed he wore a Happy Noodle Boy shirt in the staff vid ("Say it with me and wiggle! Peas, peas, peas, peas! Look! David Hasselhoff *can* fly!"). Please keep us all updated as to what ventures he may go into. Finally, as an avid (read: rabid) otaku (read: anime fan), I am really psyched about the upcoming release of Oni, but I have one suggestion to make of the gods at Bungie. *Please, please, please* make the cut scenes in spoken Japanese dialogue and throw English subtitles under it! This will make the game like a fan-sub, and only about 5,000 times cooler (than an already awesome game). Anyway, thanks for the rant room, keep up the kickass work!

—BILL "ANIFREAK" ANDERSON

YEAH, WE WENT TO PRESCHOOL TOO

OK, first day of school, real boring, you must do this and you can't do that...cover your book. So I'm thinking, how I can cover my book with an iMac poster, and I'm not too happy, because thin printer paper taped together isn't going to do. The bell rings, and on my way out, guess what made my day—iBook book covers! Finally my prayers have been answered. I don't know if Apple has been doing this for a while, but this was the first time I saw them (my school is a PeeCee school). Now I need an iMac, G4, and PowerBook cover to complete the product lineup. And maybe some software such as QuickTime, Mac OS, Apple Works, and more! I'm so happy.—STEPHEN

ARE YOU THERE? IT'S ME, MARGARET

This is God speaking. You will do as I say...buy Josh Hogue of Langley, British Columbia, a new Macintosh G4. The tower will suffice. A monitor would be nice as well. For doing this you will receive good fortune.—God

IT WAS A REFLEX

I was backstage after the Duran Duran show in Concord, California, last night, and a fan had this exchange with Nick, who is the keyboard player and has a PowerBook with his samples connected to his keyboards (sometimes he hooks up a Web cam as well):

FAN: "That is a nice computer you use onstage."

NICK: "My computer?"

FAN: "Yes, you have a Macintosh."

NICK: "Oh, yeah, I hate f#@*%\$g PCs!"

And that was that.—DON KRUSE

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A MAC ADDICT WHEN...

...you dig through two bags of trash (mostly moldy Cheez-Its) to find the Disc your mom threw away.—ROBERT "THE EGO" GOODWIN

...you tuck in your Mac before you put it to sleep.—JEFF MELROSE

...all your friends are mad at you because they chipped their teeth at your Halloween party "bobbing for Apples."—TROY MOSS

...you use Sherlock to index and search your HD for any file containing the words "PC, Microsoft, or Bill Gates" and use command-delete to purge your machine of such malignant disease.—JEREMY G. HOWERTER

...you pick out a college based on their platform of choice. Go Gophers!!!!—ALEJO ROTTENBERG

.....hotmail suddenly boots your e-mail account because it's micro_ofthsucks@hotmail.com!—JUSTIN WATERS

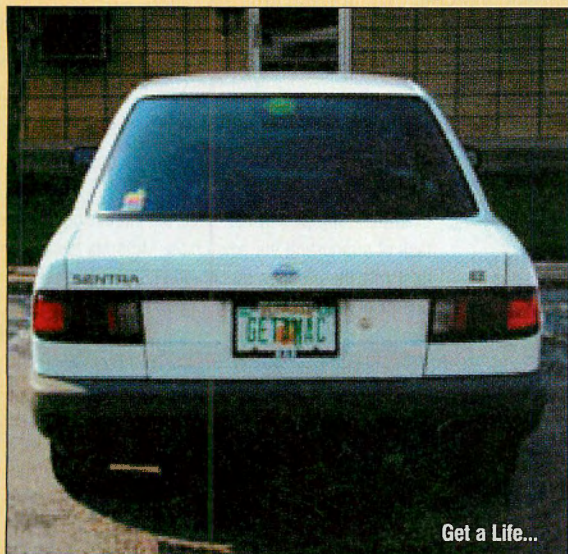
...a cab driver asks "Where do you want to go today?" and immediately get out of the cab and run away.—ERICH FABRICIUS

...your girlfriend is coming over so you clean your desktop.—STEVE ZONI

...you name your son Mac.—JONAS RABBE

...when you continue to read a Mac magazine even though it has a bazillion pages of letters.—MAX

...the only thing irreplaceable on your car is the license plate.—ALEJO ROTTENBERG



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My hard drive just crashed.

Retrospect Express provides automatic protection for everything on your Mac at a no-brainer price. It's never been easier to back up your hard drive (and everything on it) to Zip, CD-R, Jaz, or even to the Internet. With small and home offices among those hardest hit when disaster strikes, the laws of probability guarantee that sooner or later, your number will come up. But for less than \$49, Retrospect Express guarantees that you'll be smiling when it does.



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Apple Brings Out the Big Guns

Steve Jobs introduces OS 9, G4 computers in his Seybold keynote

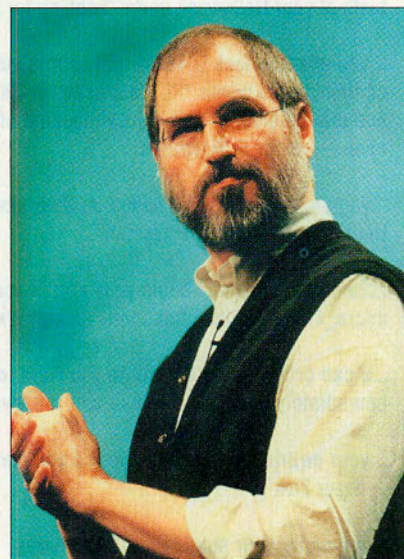
When we heard that Steve Jobs was going to keynote Seybold a mere two months after Macworld Expo, we had a bad feeling that it'd be a pretty dull affair. After all, the Expo brought a slew of new products—between Quicktime TV, Bungie's Halo demonstration, and the new iBook, we thought Apple had pretty much shot its wad of interesting announcements until next January.

Fortunately, we were dead wrong. Apple's announcements a few months ago aimed at the consumer market; at Seybold, Jobs brought out the big guns to recapture the professionals who strayed from the Mac during the lean years. Between Mac OS 9 and the spectacular new Power Mac G4 (*It Conquers All*, this issue, p40), this will be a good autumn for Mac fans, and a long, hard winter for folks trying to put off that next purchase.

TOO MANY OS FEATURES

At first, Jobs mostly recapitulated his Macworld Expo keynote, leaving us wondering if the most interesting news item of the day was to be the thickening of Jobs's beard. Just as we were slipping into unconsciousness, Jobs abruptly moved to the good stuff. He described OS 9, shipping in October, as an “Internet copilot” (finally retiring the old “a new Mac for only \$99” shtick), and mentioned that it had over 50 new features. Of these, he singled out several for special attention. He had described some features previously, but there were a few surprises.

One of the coolest new features of OS 9 is its multiuser support. Anyone who has ever shared a Mac with spouses, children, roommates, siblings, or other such pests knows the frustration of finding preferences changed and files moved about. With OS 9, different users can coexist on the same



A THICKLY BEARDED JOBS, scheming Apple's assault on the high-end desktop market.

Summer Shopping Sprees

Apple, Motorola buy more than \$600 million in stock

We all know what happens when you've got more than you need to pay the rent—you go on a shopping spree. The temptation was finally too much for Apple and Motorola to resist—combined, they're in the midst of splurging several hundred million dollars. Here's the running tab of what the two companies have spent on their shopping expeditions.—JS

Baby Chick

APPLE BUYS 5 PERCENT OF AKAMAI TECHNOLOGIES:

\$12.5 MILLION. Apple, with QuickTime 4, finally has an Internet streaming solution worthy of the name. Akamai Technologies (<http://www.akamai.com>) maintains an international network of servers, as well as software that routes connection attempts to a nearby, lightly loaded server. Apple saw the possibilities Akamai's system could lend to QuickTime 4 and decided to buy the network—or at least 5 percent of it. The combo of streaming QuickTime and Akamai's network is, of course, called QuickTime TV.

Cat

MOTOROLA BUYS METROWERKS OUTRIGHT: \$95 MILLION.

As Motorola's PowerPC processors increase in complexity (with the AltiVec unit on the G4, for example), compiler writers face the increasingly difficult task of supporting the new chips. Motorola decided to deal with the problem by creating its own in-house compiler vendor. Rather than starting from scratch, however, it decided to just snatch up Metrowerks, the predominant Macintosh compiler. The buyout should work out well for Mac developers—it gives Metrowerks greater resources, a tight focus on the PowerPC, and early access to new Motorola chip designs.

ANIMALS ARE MEANT TO GIVE SOME SENSE OF SCALE, BUT DO NOT PRECISELY REPRESENT RELATIVE PROPORTIONS. REPEAT TO YOURSELF: "IT'S JUST A SHOW, I SHOULD REALLY JUST RELAX."



machine, each having access to only a subset of the system's files and a select set of preferences. As a cool, gee-whiz twist on the usual user name and password scheme, users can lock their account with voice-print recognition; this requires them to speak a short phrase to get access to their Mac.

Other new features clearly represent part of Apple's move to give Macs connected over TCP/IP some of the cool abilities AppleTalk networks have offered for years. File sharing and network browsing will be possible over TCP/IP in OS 9, bringing the ability to use the Chooser to access files even on the remotest Macs. In an even cooler development, AppleScripts will be able to issue remote commands to machines anywhere over the Internet.

Ludicrous Speed

Jobs showed off the iBook again, revealing that it had drawn over 140,000 preorders by late August. That number is especially dramatic when one considers that the machine had not yet become available for orders in Japan, a longtime Apple stronghold. A few more technical details were forthcoming; users can roam from station to station, with all communications safeguarded by a 40-bit encryption scheme.

Jobs finished off with the highlights: the Power Mac G4 and Apple Cinema display. We give you a full look at these beauties in this issue; suffice it to say, these machines are amazing. In demo after demo, the things chewed up everything thrown their way—they even made the G3s look stately, while the Pentium IIIs were simply and very obviously out-matched. The next few months should be great fun for Mac addicts everywhere.—*IS*

Apple's Expensive New Suits

Apple fires barrage of lawsuits at the iMac clones

When iMac imitations showed up at PC Expo in late June, we knew Apple's hyper cease-and-desist legal team would soon bare its fangs. We weren't disappointed. The official reaction came in July as Apple's lawyers sank their teeth in, filing complaints against the two iMac-like PC boxes.

The E-Power (<http://www.futurepowerusa.com/products/epower.html>) is by far the more blatant ripoff. The machine has a very familiar teardrop shape, and even ships in five colors with suspect names: ruby, topaz, amethyst, emerald, and sap-phire. Apple took less than a week to file suit against Future Power and Daewoo (<http://www.daewoo.com>)—respectively, the U.S. distributor and the manufacturer of the E-Power—accusing them of pilfering Apple's designs.

The eOne, marketed by eMachines, (<http://www.e4me.com>) in the United States and Sotec Company (<http://www.sotec.co.jp>) in Japan, isn't quite as outrageous a ripoff. The general look is very similar (blue-and-white color scheme, handle on the back, and so on), but the designers appear to have put a modicum of thought into making the

machine look a tiny bit *unlike* the iMac. Nonetheless, the machines are similar enough for Apple to file a suit against both Sotec and eMachines.

Apple's case depends upon a nebulous area of trademark law that allows companies to protect stylistic design elements. In the past, Chanel has won legal protection for its distinctive bottles and National Geographic for its unique cover design. Apple is likely to accuse the companies of "trademark dilution" (reducing the value of Apple's trademark designs by copying them), as this does not require that consumers actually mistake the PCs for iMacs. Under trademark law, if Apple can prove that the public at large associates two-toned teardrop-shaped computers with Apple (which shouldn't be terribly difficult), the folks building these iMac clones will soon need the services of a few good case designers.—*IS*



IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG for Apple to file lawsuits against these lookalikes.

Dog

APPLE INVESTS IN SAMSUNG SEMICONDUCTOR: \$100 MILLION.

With the recent surge in the popularity of flat-panel displays, supplies of active matrix LCD screens have gotten tight. Concerned that such a shortage would interfere with production of products such as the iBook, Apple invested \$100 million in Samsung, which Samsung in turn invested in increased production capacity for the screens.



Cow

APPLE AUTHORIZES THE BUYBACK OF ITS OWN STOCK: UP TO \$500 MILLION.

In easily the largest transaction, Apple is planning to buy back up to \$500 million of its own stock over the course of the next year. Apple believes that its stock is currently a good investment; if the stock value continues to increase, Apple can later reissue the shares at the new, higher price to reclaim its money.



Brachiosaurus

BILL GATES' NET WORTH—\$51 BILLION.

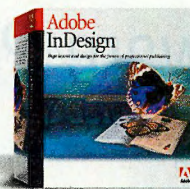
To put all these numbers in perspective, Bill Gates's net worth was estimated at \$51 billion dollars in 1998. To have the correct height ratio relative to the cow, this brachiosaurus would have to stand nearly seven pages tall.

INSPIRING.



aliquam akili si

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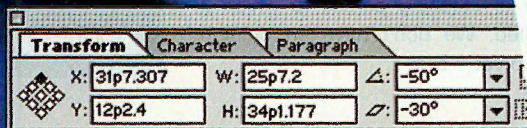
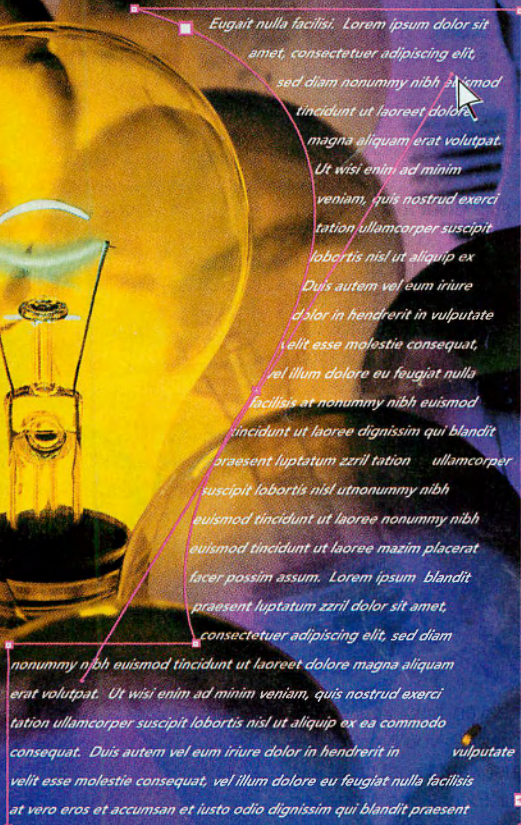
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Shareware Pick of the Month

VSE Be Found 1.2

SHAREWARE FEE: \$19.95

URL: <http://www.vse-online.com>

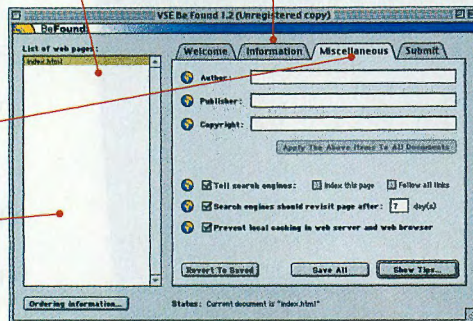
REQUIREMENTS: 68020 or later, Mac OS 7.1 or later, drag-and-drop manager (included in later versions of the Mac OS), Open Transport, 5MB of free RAM, 4MB of free hard disk space

THE MISCELLANEOUS TAB LETS YOU ENTER some basic information on who created the page, as well as how the search engine should index it.

FINALLY, YOU'LL SUBMIT YOUR WEB PAGES under this tab. There are options to upload your Web pages (using the built-in FTP client) and to submit to both directories and search engines.

DROP THE WEB PAGE you want to submit here.

THE INFORMATION TAB PULLS up a window where you can enter your Web page's title, keywords, and a description. You can also check on your competitors from here.



FIND THE SHAREWARE VSE Be Found on The Disc.

It's not enough to have an ultracool Web site anymore—oh, no. It's all about eyeballs, my friend. Eyeballs connected to a living brain, preferably. And one of the best ways to get a bunch of eyeballs to look at your site is to register it with a bunch of different search engines. Enter VSE Be Found. Not only does it

let you register your site with a *ton* of search engines—it makes sure you get the right keywords in your site (for proper indexing), and it lets you look up keywords on competing sites—just so you can see how you stack up. If you need to promote your Web site, you need to check out VSE Be Found.—DR

New for the Mac

Studio Artist

Synthetik Software; \$295

<http://www.synthetik.com>

Studio Artist made quite a splash at the summer SIGGRAPH convention—people swamped the Synthetik booth throughout the event. If you use the software, you'll see why—Studio Artist is easily the most impressive piece of graphics software to turn up in quite some time. It combines natural media, vector graphics, morphing, and visual models into a program unique in its feature set and abilities. Modeled after a sound synthesizer, Studio Artist supports a bewildering array of options, which makes it hard to describe—you can use it to simulate watercolors, as a morphing effects program, or as an excellent natural-media paint program. This one's a jaw-dropper.

Video Gogh

Re:Vision Effects; \$19.95

<http://www.revisionfx.com>

Video Gogh is a small, single-purpose program on the other end of the cost scale from Studio Artist that renders QuickTime movies as painted art. Video Gogh is derived from the code Re:Vision used in its effects work for the 1998 film *What Dreams May Come*. Re:Vision has placed sample movies on its Web site, which give a sense of the package's power.

Andromeda Outline Filter

Andromeda Software; \$69

<http://www.andromeda.com>

The Outline filter is the latest in a long and impressive series of Photoshop filters from Andromeda. The filter mimics woodcut-style black-and-white engravings. The program allows four styles of cut lines, and allows fairly precise control over the final look of an image. This isn't the most earth-shatteringly cool filter ever invented, but it's a solidly crafted tool for the serious Photoshop junkie nonetheless.—IS

You've Got a Stalker

Apple, AOL make instant messaging deal

In a move that's sure to annoy Microsoft (and those of us who have spent months trying to get rid of that goofy Instant Message icon Netscape Communicator installs), Apple and America Online agreed to collaborate on instant messaging between Mac users and the AOL Instant Messenger service. This means Mac users no longer get left out in the cold when it comes to instant messaging. It also means you can now end up with an unwanted "companion" who puts you on his or her buddy list and waits for you to go online—just like a buck under a deer blind.

Right now, if you install Netscape Communicator on your Mac, you'll get a new icon on the right side of your menu bar—it looks like a little yellow person carrying a purple triangle. From that menu, you can sign on to the Instant Messaging service, which gives you access to chats and instant messages from other AOL and Netscape users. You don't have to have

an America Online account to get an AOL Instant Messenger account, but heaven help you if you pick a common user name—you'll never be able to sign up. If you just want to get rid of the darned icon, open your Extensions Manager and turn off the AIM Menu extension.

Of course—as is usually the case when it comes to cool inventions that people want to use and that somebody else invented—Microsoft wants a piece of the action. Since July, Microsoft has been fighting a battle with America Online, trying to get AOL to stop blocking messages from Microsoft and Yahoo's instant-messaging software, MSN Messenger. For once, it's nice to see the Redmond giant on the outside looking in. Don't count on it lasting long, though—Microsoft has a way of crashing parties to which it wasn't invited. We don't have an opinion about Yahoo yet.—DR



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Show Your Love!

Win an iMac and a complete suite of Aspyr games!

Aspy Media is just about ready to unleash the biggest sports game ever to hit the Mac—Madden NFL 2000 (for a sneak peak see *PowerPlay*, this issue, p82). In celebration of this momentous title, *MacAddict* and Aspyr have teamed up to give one lucky reader a complete gaming package, including a blueberry iMac and every game Aspyr has ever put out! All you have to do is prove that you love sports—or at least one particular sports team.

Break out your giant foam finger, paint your belly, toss on your favorite sports team's jersey, and snap a photo of yourself. The Mac addict who best proves his or her fandom to any given team in any

sport (is magazine publishing a sport?—you decide) will get the iMac and copies of all Aspyr's games—including Tomb Raider III and Madden NFL 2000!



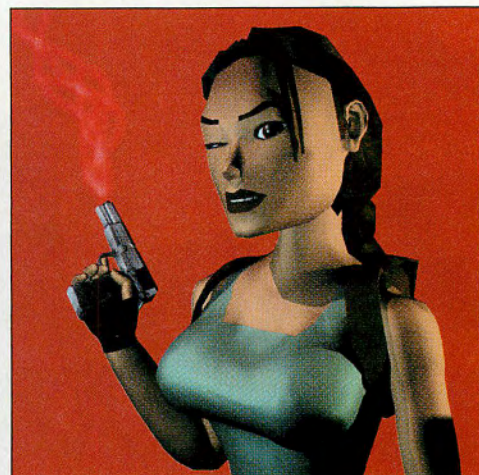
Just mail your photo along with your name, address, and telephone number to: Show Your Love Contest, c/o *MacAddict* Editor, 150 North Hill Dr., Brisbane, CA, 94005. We'll pick a winner and announce who the lucky superfan is in our January 2000 issue. Five runners-up

will also get copies of Madden NFL 2000 for the Mac.

Remember that these photos will appear in the magazine, so the more embarrassing and ridiculous they are, the better. Good luck!—RC



WIN MADDEN NFL 2000—and an iMac to play it on!



WE'LL SLIP YOU the rest of Aspyr's games as well.

Rakin' In the Dough

Getting rich on Apple's stock? Depends on when you invested...

On August 12, Apple's stock price reached \$60 for the first time since 1993—a milestone in Apple's recent meteoric rise. Only a few years ago Apple's stock

sold—or more often, didn't sell—for an abysmal \$13 per share. The sudden increase has caused a great deal of speculation about the money folks would have made if they'd

only invested a tad earlier. To rub things in, we've created a table showing just how rich (or poor) you'd be if you bought 100 shares at various times in the past.—JS

IF YOU HAD INVESTED in Apple at the right time you'd have made a nice pile o' money—but a badly timed buy would have left you waiting for a payoff.

If you'd bought 100 shares in:	You should have noticed that:	You'd have spent:	You'd have made a profit of:
August 1985	The Macintosh was not selling well—the winning Mac, LaserWriter, and PageMaker combo hadn't taken off yet.	\$1,587.50	\$11,248.00
March 1991	The desktop publishing boom was near its peak—Apple was the most profitable PC maker, with enormous profit margins.	\$6,800.00	none *
April 1992	Investors were beginning to suspect that Apple couldn't sustain its profit margins in the face of strong competition from Windows 3.1.	\$6,012.50	\$167.50
June 1995	Windows 95 loomed; Apple's response, Copland, always seemed a year and a half away. Newton jokes still dominated the press regarding Apple.	\$4643.75	\$1380.25
December 1997	After a brief burst of optimism due to Microsoft's investment of \$150 million, Apple was back under a deathwatch. Most observers didn't think CEO Jobs stood a chance of saving Apple.	\$1312.50	\$4687.50

* An investor who bought 100 shares in March 1991 would be \$800 in the hole.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY.

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USB Madness

Is your USB chain behaving oddly?

Apple's decision to adopt USB has resulted in an avalanche of Mac-compatible USB devices in the last year. By the time you read this, more than 300 Mac-compatible USB peripherals will be available. As with any new standard, though, a number of mysterious bugs have been reported, from drivers not loading when they should to USB chains vanishing when PowerBooks awake from sleep. In an effort to track down the causes of USB madness, we spoke with representatives of Keyspan (<http://www.keyspan.com>). Keyspan makes a variety of USB devices, including one of the only USB PCI cards currently on the market. The company has isolated three strains of USB madness:



1. Immature behavior

Apple's USB drivers are still quite new, as is the technology, but Keyspan described Apple's drivers as "excellent," commenting that Apple's USB team has done a "far better and quicker job than Microsoft's." Apple has been moving quickly to improve its USB drivers—the original version that shipped with the iMac did little more than drive the keyboard and mouse. The current version, 1.2, fully supports the USB standard and provides a number of "class libraries," which provide generic drivers for certain types of devices. Version 1.3, currently in beta, continues to add features and squash bugs.

2. Culture Shock

The success of the iMac has caused a host of traditionally PC-based hardware vendors to rush the production of Mac versions of their devices. In some instances, companies have gone to market without adequately debugging their Mac driver code. In this case, there's only one real cure for USB madness—getting the offending companies to revise their drivers.

3. Shim Bypass Syndrome

Many USB devices exist primarily to provide other types of ports (serial, parallel, ADB, and so on). These devices work by inserting *shims* into Apple's drivers to divert calls to the USB device. Unfortunately, some applications attempt to interface directly with the hardware, bypassing both Apple's driver and the shim. The result? A dysfunctional device.

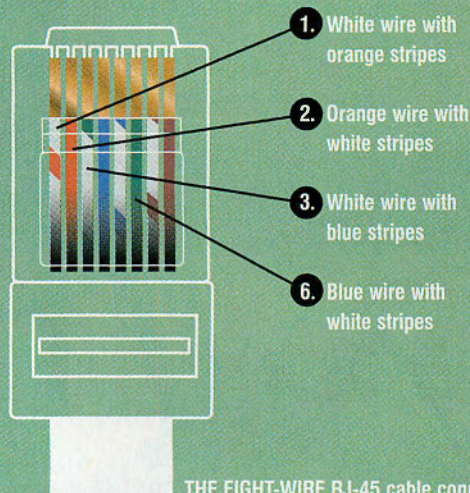
So what's the prognosis for your oddly behaving USB chain? Apple's drivers are maturing at a ferocious clip, so the first disease is curing itself. The problems due to third parties are trickier, but as long as the iMac remains a popular machine, the vendors have a sharp incentive to fix any problems that arise. With any luck, USB madness will soon be a thing of the past.—*JS*

Make Your Own Ethernet Crossover Cable

What you'll need

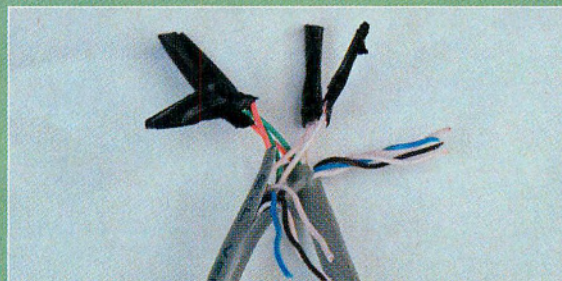
- A regular 10BaseT Ethernet cable
- Wire cutter
- Utility knife
- Black electrical tape

Cut the 10BaseT Ethernet cable. Peel back about 2 inches of the plastic sheathing, then find the following wires:



THE EIGHT-WIRE RJ-45 cable connector.

Cut these four wires and use the utility knife to cut back the covering, exposing about a half inch of bare wire on each end. Now carefully cross-connect the white with orange wire to the white with blue wire, and the orange with white wire to the blue with white wire. In other words, connect 1 to 3 and 2 to 6. Twist them together, then wrap it up in electrical tape. It may not be pretty, but it works!—*BZ*



THIS DOESN'T LOOK professional, but if it lets you enjoy a good multiplayer game...

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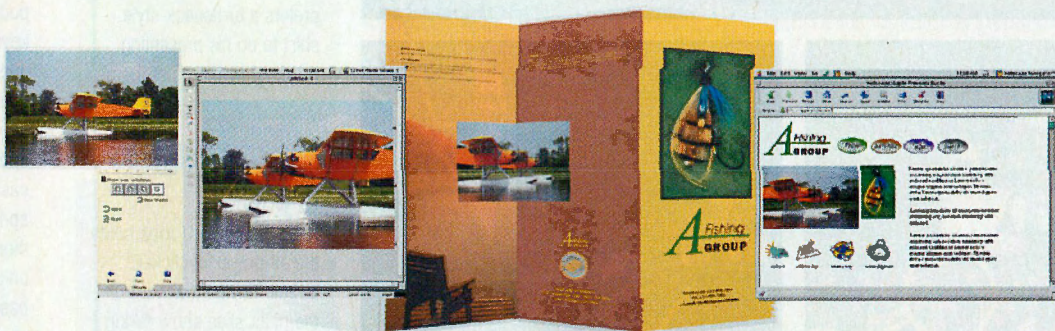
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We'll peer closely at things you wouldn't want to look at otherwise.

Anatomy of a Keynote

by David Reynolds

For the benefit of those who haven't been to a gripping iCEO keynote, we've constructed a photomontage—complete with callouts—of a Steve Jobs keynote address, so that you, too, can know what goes on inside.

The new look

Apple knows branding and marketing, and puts it up relentlessly at keynotes. The new monochrome apple is prominent, as is the slogan *du jour*—eerily reminiscent of Big Brother, but brilliant nonetheless. Presentation slides typically appear on the center screen once the show gets under way—along with every commercial Apple has made since Steve's return.

Tokenism

On each stage, there has to be a jab at the Wintel world—typically the fastest Wintel device available for purchase, which the latest Mac will trounce.

The lineup

Several Macs (and a couple of PCs) are lined up onstage, ready for the various presenters to use in demos. Apple's Phil Schiller usually runs through a Sherlock demo on one of them, repeating "It's like a whole new Mac for \$99" over and over.

Foam...edge

Like a gopher's shadow, Jobs' beard signals the style of announcements he's making. Here, the iCEO is sans stubble, so that signals a professional-level announcement: the Power Mac G3 tower, in this case. This summer, a hairy Jobs announced the iBook, a consumer device. What happens when he announces both consumer and pro items together? Armageddon. At least on his face.

Neck and neck

Eschewing a traditional shirt collar—long a standard in the business world—Jobs prefers a turtleneck-style shirt to do his presenting. He must own tons of them.

Drink and be merry

Several beverages sit on the stark black podium at every keynote, ready for thirsty presenters to swill. Usually, it's two bottles of Evian spring water. In this case, one bottle of spring water and three bottles of an unidentified water-based beverage stand ready for consumption.

The clicker of power

In his right hand, Jobs holds the all-powerful clicker: a radio device that controls the giant slide show taking place behind him.

More branding

Ambience is important, so the dead-person advertisement of the month is put up on a big banner to float at the sides of the auditorium. No, Yoko isn't dead.

Over here

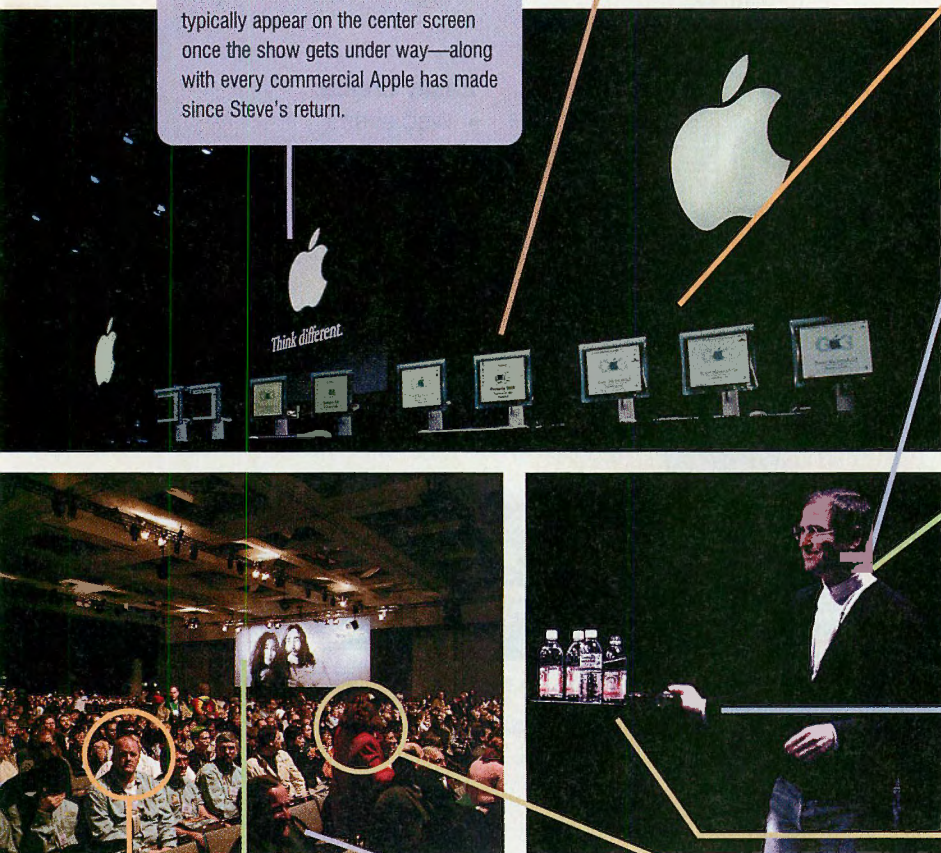
Seats go fast at the keynote, so folks drape handbags, coats, and steel-jawed leg traps on seats to save them. Once they've located an empty seat, they coax friends over to fill it.

Standing dominos

When things get exciting onstage, some members of the audience invariably stand up to get a better look—which forces everyone behind them to stand up, too. Sit down, already!

Camera man

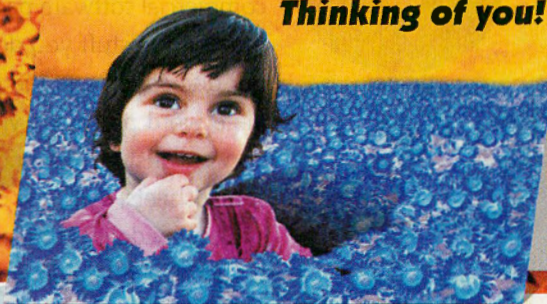
There's always at least one person in the audience who takes offense at the constant popping of camera flashes.



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BY DAVID REYNOLDS

SOFTWARE ALTERNATIVES

Software
industrial
complex
got you
down?
Have we
got a deal
for you!

Man, do we have a sweet deal for you!

You won't believe your luck at having picked up this particular issue of *MacAddict*—not that each one isn't incredibly great—but this issue has several full commercial software packages that, put together, comprise a complete set of alternatives for most of the stuff you do on your Mac. That's right, through the diligent work of Kris Fong, our disc editor, and the good will of several software companies, we're offering you a complete word processor, video editor, and 3D application as well as an image-editing application—all just for the price of this magazine. Plus, we'll point you to the best alternatives for spreadsheets, Web site creation, and audio work. Didn't we tell you it was a sweet deal?

So why do it? Let's face it—choice is good. Otherwise, we're left with market-dominating behemoths that own entire categories. Sometimes that domination is a benevolent one, providing decent products, but sometimes it visits horrors upon us, such as Microsoft Word 6. So read on, install from the CD, and enjoy.



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SOFTWARE
mentioned
here—and
scads more—
on The Disc.



NISUS WRITER 4.1.6

PRICE: Free (on our CD)!

CONTACT: Nisus Software (800-890-3030, <http://www.nisus.com>)

REQUIREMENTS: System 7 or later, 4MB of RAM for 680X0 version, 8MB of RAM for PowerPC version

A look at the interface

- A DOCUMENT INFORMATION**—This information bar contains such details as the current page number, current time, battery power (if you're using a PowerBook), and how much free memory remains.
- B RULERS**—Nisus Writer features three kinds of rulers: the standard formatting ruler, a graphics ruler (including basic drawing tools), and a sound ruler (for including voice annotations in your documents).

C LAYOUT—This button opens the layout window, in which you can preview how the document will print, adjust margins, and so on.

D SPLIT SCREEN—Just click and drag, and the screen splits between two views, either horizontally or vertically.

E MISCELLANEOUS CONTROLS—The five buttons here control whether the vertical ruler, ruler changes, and invisible characters (such as spaces and tabs) are shown, whether headers and footers are marked, and which of the ten Nisus clipboards is in use.

F VIEWS—The left button gives you the full page view, the center button shows headers and footers, and the right button displays footnotes.

Writing a personal rant is bound to be one of the first things that you'll do with your Mac—after all, we're still a semi-literate society (at least until Ross Perot's Reform Party comes to power). Enter Nisus Writer, which is a fantastic alternative to Microsoft Word for a lot of reasons: It's not from Microsoft, it's not Word, and oh yeah, it's a great word processor—especially for those who need to create long documents or work in multiple languages. Despite its power (which includes extensive indexing, voice annotations, and macros), it also has a teeny footprint (it takes up only a few megabytes of RAM and less than 10MB of hard drive space). Compare that to Word—which is PowerPC only, needs at least 6MB of RAM to work (though it prefers 12MB of RAM), and takes up a little over 5MB of RAM for the application alone. Throw in the support files for Office 98, and the total jumps to ten times that.



WORD ALTERNATIVES

If you can't stand Microsoft Word one more minute—and really, who could blame you if that were the case—check out these less painful alternatives.

■ BBEdit

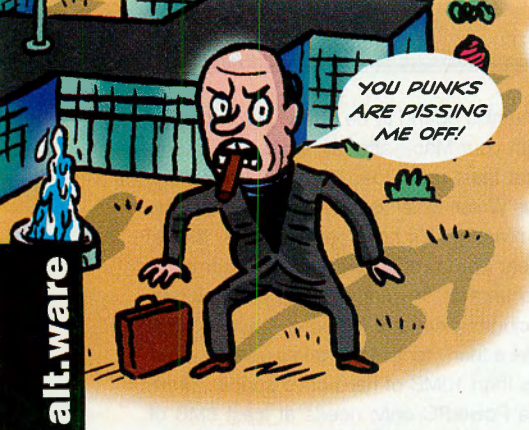
(\$119, Bare Bones Software, 781-687-0700, <http://www.barebones.com>) While not strictly a word processor, BBEdit is a cool tool for handling text. It comes in two flavors—BBEdit Lite, which is free, and BBEdit, which costs \$119. BBEdit takes up very little space (under two megs), and it can do amazing things with text (powerful searching, HTML tools, and so on). It's especially useful for Webmasters, but it also works for writing regular text.

■ FullWrite

(\$99, Akimbo Software, <http://www.akimbo.com>) Another full-featured alternative to Word, FullWrite includes support for tables, glossaries, two-page editing, print merge, multiple dictionaries and thesauri, footnotes and endnotes, and multiple languages.

■ Mariner Write

(\$69.95, Mariner Software, 800/656-5443 or 502-222-6695, <http://www.marinersoft.com>) This space-saving processor is AppleScript savvy; handles graphics, tables, and style sheets; speaks multiple languages; and much more. All this at a price so sweet it'll give you a toothache.



alt.ware

GRAPHIC ALTERNATIVES

Pixel pushers and bit flingers who'd rather carve their art from wooden blocks using only their teeth than rely on the corporate coldness of popular Adobe products can get creative with these cool tools.

■ GraphicConverter

(\$35, Lemke Software, Germany, <http://www.lemkesoft.com>) GraphicConverter is the premier shareware bitmap graphics tool, and just because it's shareware doesn't mean it lacks power. Besides sporting a solid suite of image-editing tools, GraphicConverter can open over 100 file types, export 40 file types, do batch processing, present a slide show of images, bring home the bacon, and fry it up in the pan. It also includes an image browser to let you blast through the contents of a folder. And that only scratches the surface of its abilities! If you don't have it already, get it.

■ Rainbow Painter 1.2

(\$12, Addiction Interactive, <http://www.addiction.se>) This relative newcomer on the Mac scene comes decked out in a wild interface (there's *nothing* like it). Once you get used to its funky look and feel, you'll find an odd assortment of powerful tools under the hood, including alpha channels, effects brushes, multiple studios, and a mask layer. Currently, the program only imports PICT, Targa, Raw, and Rainbow image formats, but development has been pretty rapid to this point. It's definitely worth a try, but brace yourself for the experience.

■ Painting 1.6.2

(\$15, Sarwat Khan, <http://sarwat.net/painting>) This shareware image-editing program packs a mean punch in an elegant interface, featuring support for pressure-sensitive graphics tablets, QuickTime 3 effects (including blur, sharpen, and lens flare), AppleScript, Photoshop, QuickTime, and BMP file formats. There's a lot of power underneath this simple application—it's slick!

DIGITAL DARKROOM

Price: Free (on our CD)!

Contact: MicroFrontier (800-388-8109 or 515-225-9800, <http://www.microfrontier.com>)

Requirements: 68020 or later, System 7 or later, 3MB of RAM, 30MB hard drive space

Sure, it's great fun to paste yourself into a picture of Boris Yeltsin's cabinet meeting (that is a *faked* photo, right?), but who wants to spend hundreds of dollars for a copy of Photoshop to do it? Unless your objective is to impress Yevgeny Primakov, you don't have to waste the money. Instead, just fire up a copy of Digital Darkroom.

Although it's not meant for prepress work (it's limited to just RGB and gray-scale color), Digital Darkroom does a great job at almost everything else. It's got a solid set of tools for selection, painting, and other tricks; it accepts third-party Photoshop filters; and it allows multiple undos. Digital Darkroom also features an AutoMagic menu that includes functions to improve your photo's quality (including contrast adjustments, red-eye removal, and scratch removal), plus a couple of simple tools to extrude items and add drop shadows for easy Web button creation. If you want info on an image's download size for Web optimization, Digital Darkroom can do that, too.

A look at the interface

A SELECTION

TOOLS—Four basic selection tools—the marquee tool, the crop tool, the lasso tool, and the magic wand—let you select portions of your image with ease. The marquee tool can be either square or oval (you set this through the Options button).

B DOCUMENT

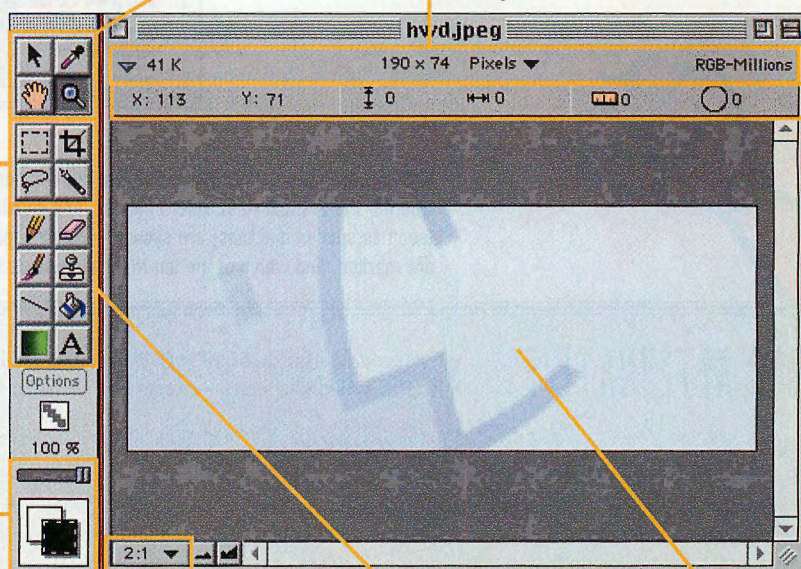
TOOLS—Four basic image tools—arrow, eyedropper, hand, and magnifier—make manipulating the overall image easy.

C DOCUMENT

INFORMATION—Up top, three important bits of information appear: the image's size in kilobytes, its dimensions in any number of units (the default is pixels), and the image's color space (RGB or gray scale)—as if you couldn't tell from looking.

D TOOL

INFORMATION—Tells you stuff about the selected tool, including its position on the screen, the size of the selection, the distance in a line from the selection, and the angle of that line.



E COLOR

SWATCHES—The slider and color swatches let you select any number of colors to use on the image.

F MAGNIFICATION

INFORMATION—The current magnification ratio, as well as tools to increase or decrease that ratio, appear here.

G EDITING TOOLS

—Here's where you get creative. These eight tools—pencil, eraser, paintbrush, rubber stamp, line, paint bucket, gradient, and text—are where you get into the nitty-gritty of adding and removing pixels.

H IMAGE AREA

—And, of course, the image itself appears here on the canvas.

VIDEOSHOP 3.0

Price: Free (on our CD)!

Contact: Strata (435-628-5218, <http://www.strata.com>)

Requirements: Color-capable Macintosh, minimum of 4MB of free RAM (more than 8MB recommended), System 7 or later, QuickTime 2.0 or later, QuickTime-compatible AV card or any AV Macintosh required for video capture

Yeah, we've all been told that desktop video is the Next Big Thing, and both Apple and Adobe are jostling for position to make sure that they're the ones who own it. There are alternatives, however, to both Premiere and Final Cut Pro, just in case you don't own a beefy new G3 and don't have several hundred dollars to throw around. Thanks to Strata, we've included a full version of one such alternative on our CD—Strata VideoShop 3.0.

VideoShop has a full host of features with support for multiple video clips, audio clips, MIDI clips, and titling. It comes with several transition and effects types, and it includes the ability to manipulate audio tracks. Once you've done all the editing, you can print the production back to video, taking away a tape of your efforts. And all this for—what's that? Free? Cool.

A look at the interface

A CANVAS—Here's where the movie magic takes place—or at least where you can see it taking place.

B FOLDER WINDOW—It works just like a Finder window, and it can contain video clips, audio clips, or just about anything you can drag onto the timeline.

C VOLUMES WINDOW—Any mounted volumes show up in this window. You can cruise through them looking for clips to use in your production just as you would in the Finder.

D RECORDING WINDOW—This is where you record your video by setting up the capture location and grabbing clips.

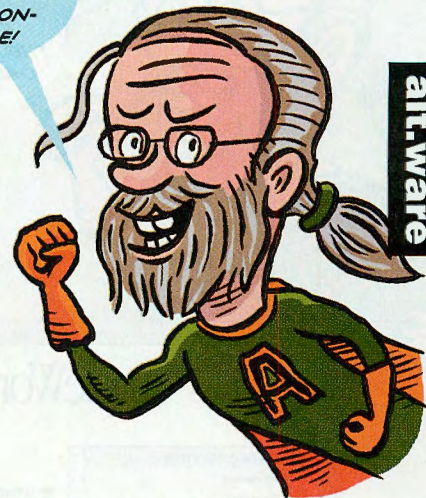
E TITLING WINDOW—When you want to add text to your video—and you will—you'll do it in the titling window. It works a lot like a word processor—just click and start typing.

F SEQUENCER—Here's where you assemble video clips, audio clips, MIDI clips, and titles into a full-fledged production. You'll do the bulk of your creative work here, adjusting levels, edit points, and other settings.

G DEVICE CONTROL—If you have a deck that can communicate via the Visca or Sony Serial protocol, you can control it from this window to make capturing clips even easier.

H LOG WINDOW—If you've ever done analog video production, the Log window will look familiar. It keeps track of various clips in the production, including in and out points and total duration.

IT'S ABOUT CHOICE, MAN! DON'T LET THEM SPOON-FEED YOU THEIR COMPETITION-CRUSHING TRIPE!



alt.ware

VIDEO ALTERNATIVES

It's a fallacy that you must choose either Premiere or Final Cut; there are plenty of other options available for simple video editing. Here are a few to get you rolling.

■ QuickEditor

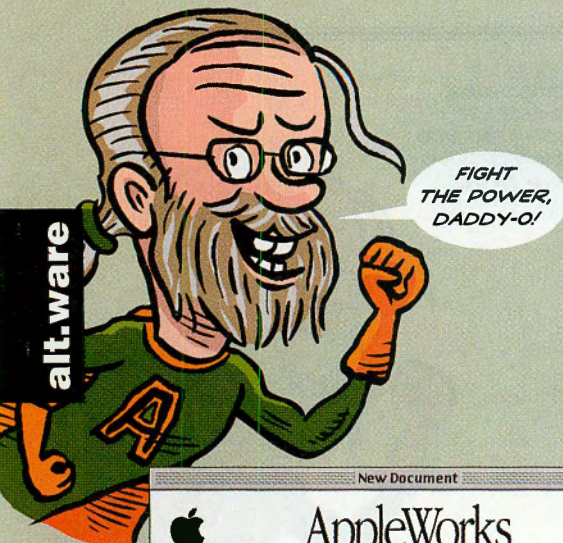
(\$35, Mathias Tschopp, <http://wild.ch/quickeditor>) Don't let the low price fool you—QuickEditor's no lightweight. Features include over 100 transitions and filters, a great titling tool (for adding text to videos), and a simple, scalable interface.

■ MovieWorks

(\$100, Interactive Solutions, <http://www.movieworks.com>) This commercial package offers a ton of features for creating interactive movies. Aimed at the novice, it covers video editing, sound editing, painting, animation, and more, for an unbelievable price.

■ Play It Cool

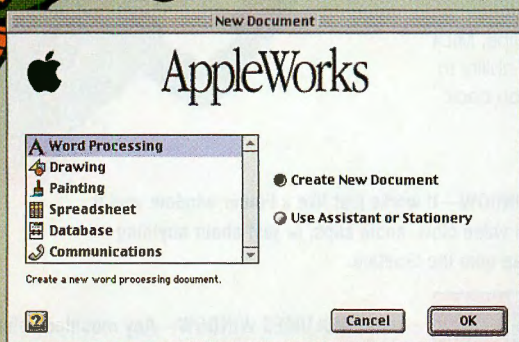
(\$15, Russell Clarke, <http://www.kagi.com/rwc/pic.html>) Although its video-editing capabilities are limited to basic cut, copy, and paste functions, Play It Cool is one smooth, fast QuickTime-based movie-playing application. Bonus feature: It creates self-playing movies that don't require any sort of movie player application.



APPLEWORKS

PRICE: \$99 (free with purchase of a new iMac)
CONTACT: Apple Computer, 800-795-1000, <http://www.apple.com>
REQUIREMENTS: 68020 or faster, System 7.0.1 or later, 8MB of RAM

Sometimes you do a lot of hard work and don't get a lick of credit. AppleWorks, formerly Claris Works, is a perfect example of that in the software world, and it doesn't even get bitter or resentful about it. AppleWorks is the ultimate alternative—it's six tools in one application, and it's more powerful than you might think. It includes a word processor, a spreadsheet, a database, a paint program, a draw program, and a communication program. While some of the tools are not quite up to doing high-end work (the paint portion of AppleWorks isn't likely to replace Photoshop anytime soon), others (such as the database and word processing portions) are quite good. Best of all, it ships with every iMac, so millions of Mac owners already have it—and if you don't, it's one of the best bargains in software.

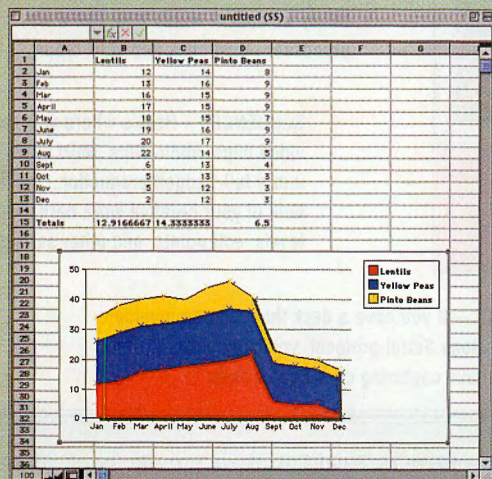
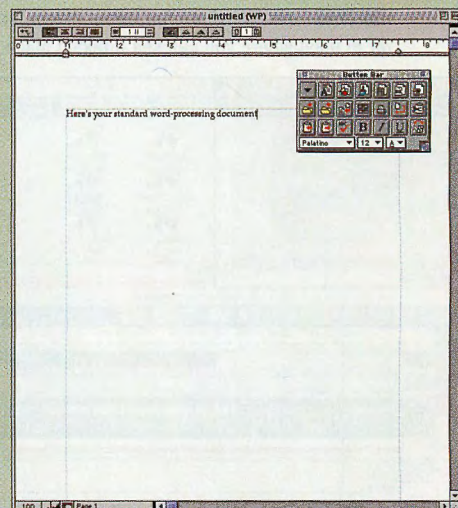


Appleworks

Start a new document in AppleWorks, and you'll get your choice of what part of AppleWorks you want to work in. Simply choose one from the list and go for it.

It's a word processor

AppleWorks has a full-featured word processor built right in—one that has a fully configurable button bar (which can also go away), the ability to import graphics (for basic page layout), and basic HTML support (including hyperlinks inside AppleWorks documents). Although AppleWorks can't save documents in Word 98 format, it can save them as Word 4 documents, which is good enough—whether we like it or not, *some* interplay with Microsoft Word is important.

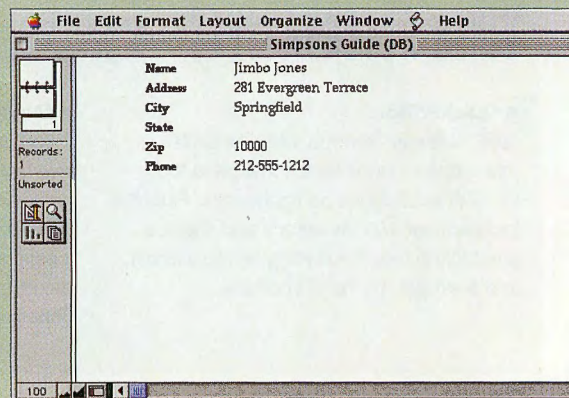


No, it's a spreadsheet

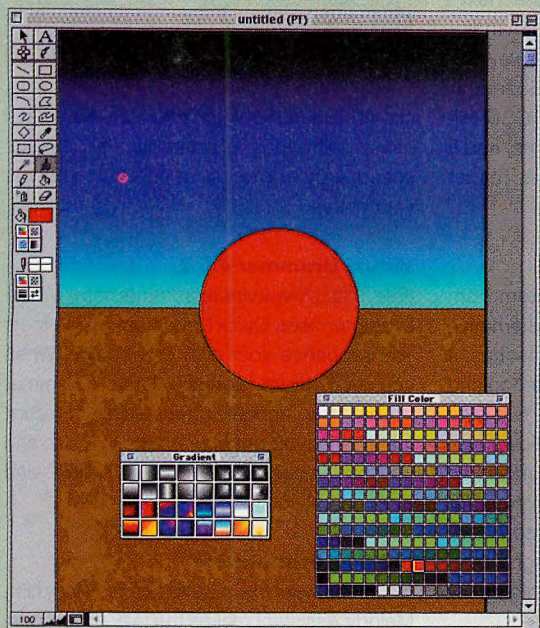
Okay, it's tough to get *too* excited about a spreadsheet (unless you're some sort of number-loving weirdo), but there's no denying that they're useful beasts. While AppleWorks may not have the billions of features that make Excel a favorite among corporate folks, it does have everything you need for basic spreadsheet work, including a decent graphic function.

Wait—it's a database

The AppleWorks database section looks—and works—an awful lot like FileMaker, which isn't surprising when you consider their common roots. If it's hard to get excited about a spreadsheet, then it must be even harder to get excited about a database, right? Wrong. The AppleWorks database has all kinds of applications, from tracking your MP3 collection, to keeping your checkbook in order, to organizing your enemies list—hey, *that* list can get pretty long, and it's important to know where to concentrate your efforts. You can also beautify your databases by adding artwork into the layout. Smooth!



THIS IS TOTALLY
UNACCEPTABLE! I
WILL NOT TOLERATE
THIS AFFRONTERY!!

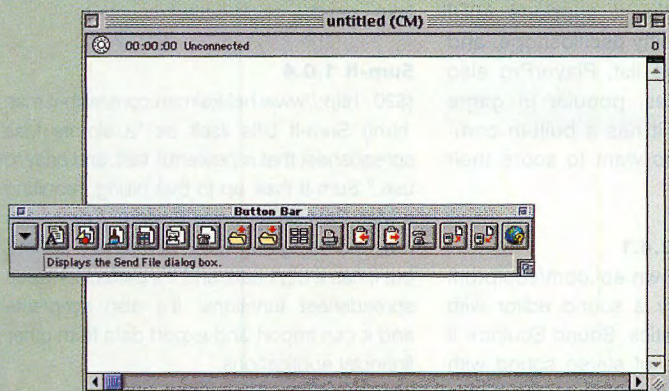
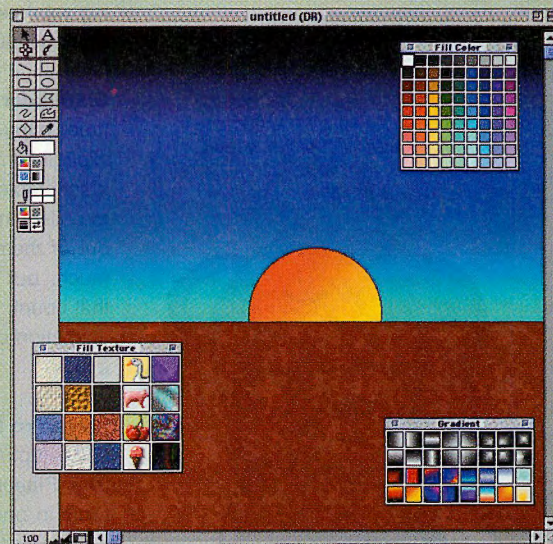


I'm sorry, it's a paint program

Those who remember the original MacPaint from a *loooooong* time ago will notice that AppleWorks retains a few items from this application, but it can now do so much more. The tool palette works like your standard paint program, letting you choose from a number of basic shape tools to start drawing. AppleWorks isn't limited to black and white (as its predecessor was)—instead, you can choose from any number of colors, patterns, and even gradients. Besides laying down colored shapes (including basic Bézier shapes), AppleWorks also has decent selection tools (a lasso and magic wand), plus broad coloring tools (including a paintbrush, bucket, and spray can). Although it won't replace Photoshop, AppleWorks is the perfect program for working up a quickie bitmapped image.

Uh, my mistake, it's a draw program

This is the flip side to the AppleWorks paint program. Instead of laying down bitmapped swatches on a canvas, the draw portion of AppleWorks lays down editable shapes you can move in front of and behind each other—just as in the old MacDraw. Although it doesn't have the same range of tools as, say, Macromedia FreeHand (go figure), the basic tools are good enough for most nonprofessional needs. Plus, if you find the draw tools too limiting, you can insert a box into the drawing, where you can use AppleWorks' paint tools to make a masterpiece.



Yeah, yeah, it's a communications program, too

If AppleWorks has a vestigial flipper, the communications package is it. Although it's not nearly as useful in these days of the Internet as it used to be, there's nothing like a good old communications package to set up a direct serial connection between two computers—either via modem or across some other serial interface (including a cable or even infrared). There are some times when there's just no substitute for a terminal application, and AppleWorks satisfies even that need.

WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

A ton of other apps out there besides the brand-name stuff will do the same job for a fraction of the cost. We've listed a few of them below. Of course, we'll inevitably fail to mention some very cool programs, so we apologize in advance to anyone we've left out. Please don't write us nasty letters.

Alpha 7.2

(\$30, <http://www.alpha.olm.net>) Sure, BBEdit has a reputation in the Mac community as the best HTML editor, hands-down, but there are other HTML editors worth mentioning. One is Alpha, a high-powered text editor that uses Tcl scripting, is incredibly customizable, and can interact with Internet applications (for example, Eudora for sending and receiving email and Archie for remote file editing). Very cool BBEdit alternative.

REMEMBER, GANG, "THE MAN" CAN ONLY BE "THE MAN" IF WE BUY INTO "HIS" MARKET DOMINATION AND LET BRUTE FORCE SNUFF OUT COMPETITION. OR IF HIS PRODUCTS ARE BETTER.



Style Master 1.3

(\$29, http://www.westciv.com/style_master) For those looking to integrate the next generation of Web technology into their sites, Style Master offers an easy way to apply and edit Cascading Style Sheets. It features point-and-click editing, a CSS reference, and live previewing of pages, and it can open other style sheets, no matter where they were created.

Page Spinner 2.1

(\$24.95, <http://www.optima-system.com/pagespinner>) This inexpensive alternative to other Web site creation utilities has a plethora of features to get your site looking great. It lets you create pages in two-byte languages, does tag balancing, allows previews in multiple browsers, and even has an extension for CSS. One great feature for novice Webmasters is an interactive AppleGuide file to walk you through creating your own pages. It's even scriptable via AppleScript!

GIFBuilder

(free, <http://iawwww.epfl.ch/Staff/Yves.Piguet/clip2gif-home/GifBuilder.html>) GIFBuilder is a scriptable utility with one purpose in life: to collect images and build animated GIFs out of them. Sure, that doesn't seem like much, but sometimes it's the little things that count. For those wanting to put a little animation on their site, GIFBuilder is worth a look.

PlayerPro 5.3

(\$69, <http://www.quadamation.com/pphome.htm>) PlayerPro combines several sound tools in one: player, editor, and composer. Besides opening just about any audio format, PlayerPro can handle 16-bit 44KHz stereo audio, it supports MIDI hardware, it has a nifty oscilloscope, and it even has a music list. PlayerPro also generates MOD files, popular in game development, plus it has a built-in composer for those who want to score their own compositions.

Sound Sculptor II 2.4.1

(\$30, <http://hometown.aol.com/sculptorii/index.html>) Primarily a sound editor with overdubbing capabilities, Sound Sculptor II handles eight tracks of stereo sound with pan and volume control. It also records either mono or stereo sound with input gain



control. SoundSculptor also features a track mixer (with tons of controls), a variable-speed shuttle, and lots of effects to apply to your mixes.

Virtual Drummer 4.0.2

(free, <http://www.virtualdrummer.com>) Virtual Drummer uses QuickTime drum tracks to let you sequence your own drum solos. When you edit drum songs, Virtual Drummer applies the updates immediately. Practice features let you get your chops in order, and you can import and export MIDI files—and even export your songs as AIFF files.

Melody Assistant 3.4

(\$15, <http://www.myriad-online.com/melody.htm>) Melody Assistant makes the task of composing music easy with a built-in score editor, a digital instrument database, a digital sound editor, and tablature and chord diagrams for you guitar players out there. And, God help us, you can use Melody Assistant to make MIDI-based Karaoke files.

Mariner LE 3.14

(\$30, <http://www.marinersoft.com>) Sure, you can use the tremendous power of Excel to keep track of your cat food expenses, but is that really necessary? Not if you check out Mariner LE 3.14. This little spreadsheet runs on 1.5MB of RAM and only takes up 2.3MB on your hard drive, but it doesn't lack power. It has a full range of functions, a workbook-like layer capability, and simple but robust charting. What it doesn't have is an annoying take-over-the-whole-screen mentality.

Sum-It 1.0.4

(\$20, <http://www.hekkelman.com/sum-it-mac.html>) Sum-It bills itself as "a simple Mac spreadsheet that is powerful, fast, and easy to use." Sum-It lives up to that billing, requiring a Mac Plus or later and System 7 or later to run, and using only 512K of memory. It's tiny, but it has a big heart, and it's perfect for basic spreadsheet functions. It's also scriptable and it can import and export data from other financial applications.

David Reynolds enjoys opening applications with BBEdit.

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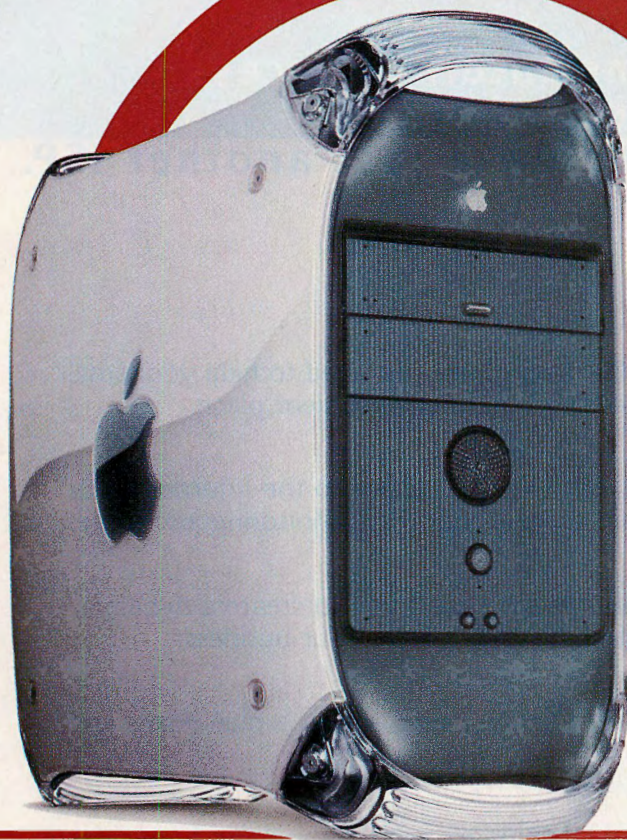
IT CONQUERS ALL

by David Reynolds

G4 Makes Your Mac a Super Mac

In case you missed it, at the end of August Apple announced that the Power Macintosh desktop line would get a boost—all the way to blazing supercomputer power via the new G4 chip. This beefed-up microprocessor boasts a massive speed increase thanks to what Apple has dubbed its Velocity Engine, or what Motorola calls AltiVec. Although the addition of the G4 is a major boon, it's not the only improvement the desktop line sports. Apple has tweaked the motherboard for most of the G4 line, adding features such as a true Accelerated Graphics Port and internal FireWire while doing away with ADB entirely, and packaged the system in an updated case—same shape, but now in graphite and silver. Plus, just to show that displays can be cool, Apple announced the matching Cinema Display, a mega-thin, 22-inch LCD.

There's no question that the G4 stomps Intel like Bigfoot at an ant farm. But don't take our word for it—Intel's own benchmarks show that the G4 is two to three times faster than the Pentium III. It's so fast, in fact, that the U.S. government has classified the new G4-based Macs as supercomputers. There's a lot to know about these screamers—from motherboard differences, to new graphics, to the new processor with the Velocity Engine. Here's our very own guided tour of the gray-and-white wonder.



AT A GLANCE Your Guide to the G4 in Easy Bites

400MHz

Based on the blue-and-white G3 motherboard design, the 400MHz Power Macintosh still packs quite a punch.

Processor: 400MHz G4 with 1MB of backside cache
Memory: 64MB (1GB maximum)
Memory bandwidth: 400 MBps
Graphics: Rage 128 in a special 66MHz PCI slot
Drives: 10GB Ultra ATA/33 hard drive, CD-ROM drive
Connectivity: 10/100BaseT Ethernet, two FireWire ports, two USB ports, built-in 56-kbps modem.
Price: \$1,599

450MHz

The low end of the new motherboard design, the 450MHz G4 features a bigger memory pipe-line, AGP 2X graphics, a faster ATA bus.

Processor: 450MHz G4 with 1MB of backside cache
Memory: 128MB (1.5GB maximum)
Memory bandwidth: 800 MBps
Graphics: Rage 128 in an AGP 2X slot
Drives: 20GB Ultra ATA/66 hard drive, DVD-ROM with DVD-Video playback, 100MB Zip drive
Connectivity: 10/100BaseT Ethernet, three FireWire ports (one internal), two USB ports (with individual controllers, allowing more USB devices and 24 Mbps worth of bandwidth), 56-kbps modem
Price: \$2,499

500MHz

This is the hottest of the hot. Powered by the very fastest processor of this racy bunch, the 500MHz offers even more than the 450MHz version.

Processor: 500MHz G4 with 1MB of backside cache
Memory: 256MB (1.5GB maximum)
Memory bandwidth: 800 MBps
Graphics: Rage 128 in an AGP 2X slot
Drives: 27GB Ultra ATA/66 hard drive, DVD-RAM with DVD-Video playback, 100MB Zip Drive
Connectivity: 10/100BaseT Ethernet, three FireWire ports (one internal), two USB ports (with individual controllers, allowing more USB devices and 24 Mbps worth of bandwidth), optional 56-kbps modem
Price: \$3,499

THE MOTHERBOARD

500MHz. The 400MHz model is based on the older G3 motherboard but has a G4 chip in it, while the 450MHz and 500MHz models feature a slightly updated motherboard design. The major differences between the two motherboards are that the newer version has a bigger memory pipeline (for faster performance), AGP 2X graphics support (which speeds up certain graphics operations), AirPort wireless networking capabilities, a higher RAM limit, a faster ATA interface, two USB controllers (the G3's two USB ports share a single controller), and an internal FireWire connector. Oh, and the new Cinema Display only works with the new motherboard design—it needs the AGP graphics to function properly. The 400MHz and 450MHz versions should be shipping when you read this—the 500MHz version is slated to ship in November. Here's a look at the insides of the high-end Power Mac G4s.

PCI slots—Like the older G3 motherboard, the new G4 motherboard has three 66MHz PCI slots. Older 33MHz PCI cards will work just fine in it, thank-youverymuch.

Heat sink—Okay, so the G4 *does* put out a little more heat than the G3—just look at the size of that heat sink. Still, it doesn't require a fan on top of the processor (unlike a certain Pentium), and Apple says it should be able to get the G4 into a PowerBook in the future.

AGP 2X slot—This slot, filled with an ATI Rage 128 card with 16MB of video memory, is a true AGP 2X slot. This lets the G4 handle texture maps with astonishing speed, and the Rage 128 AGP card can drive the digital Cinema Display. AGP is especially good for 3D graphics, so when combined with OpenGL, the new G4s should be mighty fast in the third dimension. As an added bonus, the AGP 2X slot should be able to handle PC AGP graphics cards—provided that the manufacturers write Mac drivers for them.

USB—The new G4 has two 12Mb USB controllers instead of one, allowing each port to support 127 devices for a total of 254. The new G4 also supports bootable USB drives and USB audio devices (such as speakers and microphones).

Internal FireWire connector—That's right. The new G4 motherboard features an internal FireWire connector to let you hook up FireWire devices. Although there aren't any internal FireWire devices to speak of at the moment, we expect they will become more prevalent as the standard takes hold—and Apple will be ready.

RAM slots—The G4 uses the same kind of RAM as the old G3, but it can handle more of it. You can stuff the four PC100 SDRAM slots with up to 1.5GB (yes, that's gigabytes) of RAM. The machine can actually handle up to 2GB of RAM, but the Finder can only address up to 1.5GB, so you'd be wasting half a gig of RAM if you tried it.

AirPort card slot—If you're drooling over the prospect of fast wireless networking (especially if you also plan to pick up an iBook), you can equip the new G4 with an AirPort wireless card (the same card you'd use in an iBook). You'd better make that decision when you buy your new G4, however. Apple doesn't plan to offer the ability to upgrade to AirPort later. The antennae tuck into the G4's front top handle.

Modem slot—The internal modem plugs into the motherboard here, and the phone jack pokes out the panel back. Curiously, the modem ships as a standard feature on the 450MHz G4, but it's optional on the 500MHz G4.

Hey! Who Stole My...

ADB It's official. No shipping Mac supports the Apple Desktop Bus, so if you need to connect ADB devices to your G4, you'll need an ADB-to-USB converter. If you have a monitor with an ADB attachment you'd like to use, you can still plug the monitor into the graphics port, but you won't be able to attach the ADB plug, limiting your monitor's color-correction capabilities.

THE VELOCITY ENGINE

G4

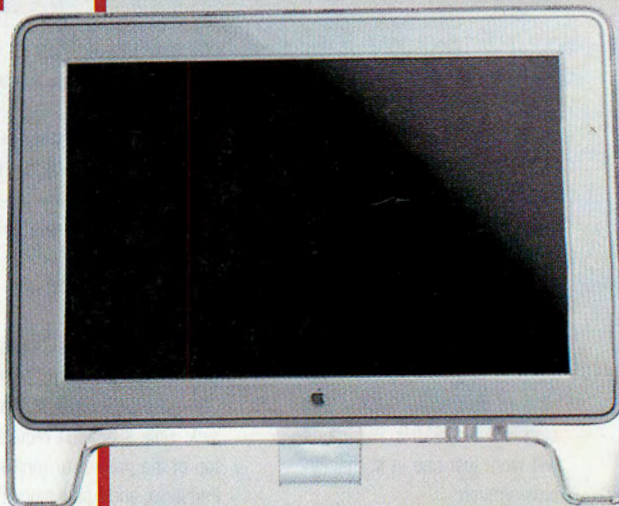
Aside from running at healthy speeds, the G4 from Motorola features something Apple has dubbed the Velocity Engine, formerly known as AltiVec. Because of the Power Macintosh G4's ability to perform over one billion floating-point operations per second, the U.S. government has classified it as a supercomputer, restricting its export—apparently because of security concerns centered on code-breaking. The Velocity Engine is also a big part of what gives the G4 its edge over the Pentium III.

So what is the Velocity Engine, anyway? It's a special processing unit added on to the G4 processor to handle certain kinds of data—namely 3D graphics, images, video, and audio. The Velocity Engine speeds up certain operations significantly: anywhere from 1.43 times to 14 times faster than a comparable PowerPC chip without the Velocity Engine. It does this by breaking the data into smaller chunks and processing those chunks in parallel—that is, at the same time. This makes for massive speed boosts in these areas.

The one hitch is that applications require rewriting to get any benefit from the Velocity Engine, but such updates are already under way. Some of the applications that already support the Velocity Engine include Photoshop (with special plug-ins), Animation Stand, IDL (a tremendous scientific software package), and SoundJam MP. 3dfx has also announced that it will produce Mac products optimized for the Velocity Engine. Also on the list is Mac OS 9.

Over the short run, the Velocity Engine resembles the original PowerPC transition—applications will run a little faster, and Velocity Engine-enabled applications will run a *lot* faster. As more applications become Velocity Engine-savvy, the Mac will rocket ahead of the PC pack.

David Reynolds would not kill for a G4 (well, at least he wouldn't kill anyone he *knows*), but he's willing to discuss other arrangements.



Apple Cinema Display

The new Apple Cinema Display is, quite simply, the baddest flat-panel ever to hit the streets. This amazing 22-inch digital LCD monitor has the same viewable area as a 24-inch (!) display, and it handles a resolution of 1600 by 1024 pixels in beautiful, crisp color. This wide-aspect ratio isn't just a random number. It matches the HDTV standard, and it's been popping up in other monitors, such as Silicon Graphics's beauty. The translucent plastics match the G4's case, and the display features a spring-loaded stand in the back. Adjusting the screen angle is easy—just push forward or pull back on the top of the display (the spring-loaded arm handles the rest).

Because it's a digital display (as opposed to an analog one), the Cinema Display needs a special interface with the video card. This means the Cinema Display works only with the Power Macintosh G4 with the AGP graphics card. Why would you want a digital display? Since they talk directly to the graphics card, digital displays are more precise in terms of color, and they don't fall prey to interference in the same way older analog monitors might. (Older analog LCDs do the analog-to-digital conversion in the monitor itself, which leaves them open to noise and signal fluctuations.) It's definitely one of the most stunning monitors we've ever seen.

And the price of this amazing beauty? As the saying goes, if you have to ask, you probably can't afford it. Well, okay, we'll tell you, but you better lay down first. In a bundle with the new G4s, it adds \$3,999 to the bottom line, bringing the total for a 450MHz system to \$6,498. You'd better want one *real* bad.

How Much Butt Does a Velocity Engine Kick?

So just how much does the Velocity Engine speed things up? Here's a brief look at a few functions, taken from Apple's developer Web site. The speed increase indicates how much faster the function runs when it is enabled for the Velocity Engine:

TECHNOLOGY	SPECIFIC FUNCTION	HOW MUCH FASTER
Audio	Inverse FFT in floating point	3.6 times
Video	Forward DCT in floating point	3.6 times
Video	Forward DCT in 16-bit integer	11.4 times
Graphics	Matrix-matrix multiplication in floating point	6.2 times

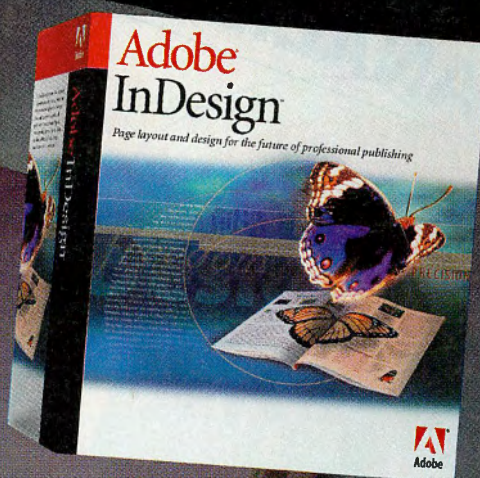
Still not convinced? Here are a few industry-standard ratings. The G4 integer operations rate 21.4, and its floating point operations rate 20.4 at 450MHz—according to the SPECint95 and SPECfp95 benchmarks, a couple of standard measures. The Pentium III at 450MHz has rates of 18.6 in integer functions and a lowly 13.6 in floating-point operations. Ouch!

And you get all this for a measly 8 watts of power at 400MHz. For comparison, a Pentium III at 600MHz uses 33.6w. Careful—that'll burn ya!

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20 Tips

ANALize Your Mac:

20 Tips

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for Straightening up Your Messy Mac

It's time to clean up the clutter. We all know too well that after weeks or months of working and playing at our Macs, our files, folders, and icons tend to get more than a little messy. Before long, you've got a dozen aliases scattered on the desktop, your email looks like a bomb hit it, and you can't find any important files, even with Sherlock's help. Not to mention the Mac itself: covered with dust and smudged, greasy fingerprints.

Although we're not about to come to your house and quick-vac your keyboard to get rid of all the cat hair caught in it, we will offer help in the form of advice. And we'll even throw in some useful software that you'll find on The Disc. In fact, we've made a check-list of everything you need to do to transform your Mac from a pigsty to a virtual clean room.

We have to warn you, though—once you start, it can be hard to stop. Before too long, you may have the cleanest computer around. But it's OK to get a little obsessive—in fact, your Mac will thank you for it.

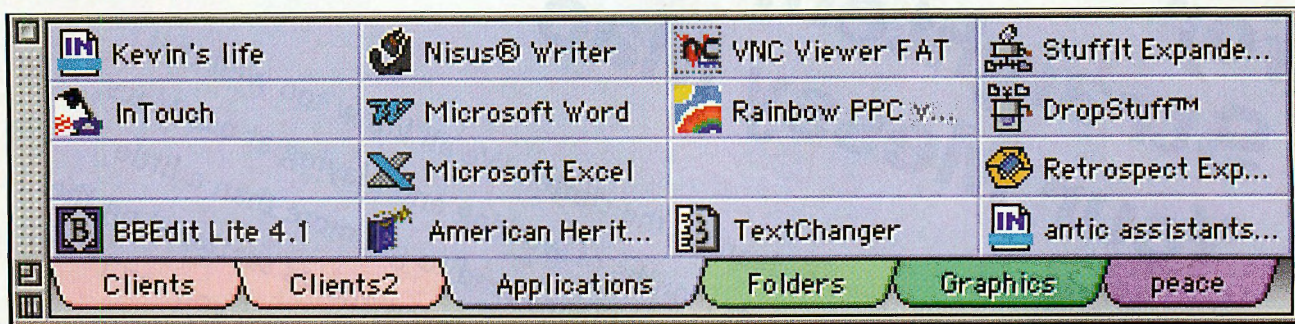
BY KEVIN SAVETZ



**FIND A
BUTTLLOAD
of anal
software on
The Disc!**

Fastidious Finder

☑ Unclutter your desktop



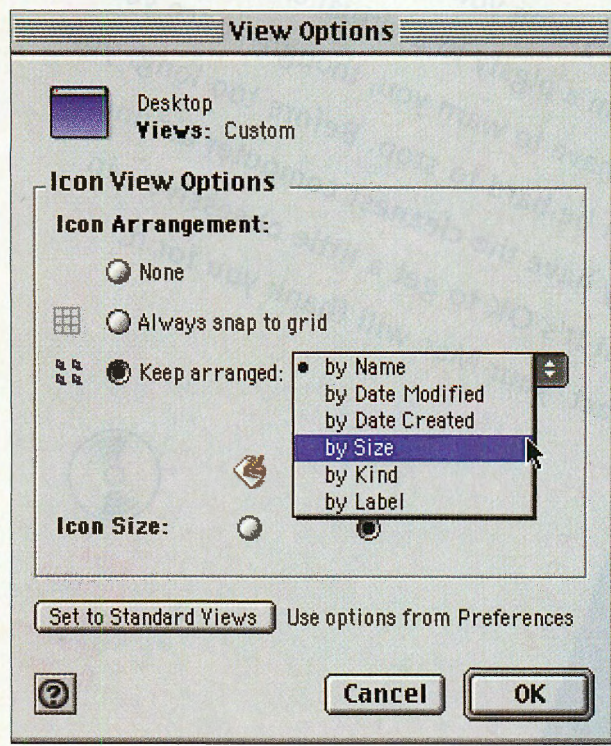
Keeping aliases on your desktop to applications and documents that you use frequently is efficient, but they can look pretty messy. DragThing (\$15, <http://www.recurringdream.com>) is the answer. This program creates an onscreen “dock,” a kind of tabbed file

folder. You can drag applications, documents, and even URLs onto the dock for easy access. The dock minimizes when you aren’t actively using it, so it won’t get in the way of other applications or Finder windows.

☑ Use the Clean Up and Arrange commands

The two quickest ways to a presentable Finder window are the Clean Up and Arrange commands—ideal when last-minute company is coming over to use your Mac and you simply have no time to clean. In icon view, choose Clean Up (under the View menu in Mac OS 8.5 and later) to straighten up your sloppy icons quickly. The Arrange command (it’s called Sort List if the window is in List view) organizes a window’s files by name, kind, date, size, or other criteria. Both commands work on desktop icons, too.

On the desktop and in windows where the icon view is apropos, the Finder’s View Options command can keep your icons tidy. The Always Snap To Grid option keeps icons aligned as you move them around. The Keep Arranged function forces those icons into perpetual order with military precision.



☑ Purge your Apple menu

When was the last time you used Note Pad? Have you ever touched the Graphing Calculator or the Puzzle? There’s probably plenty of dross clogging your Apple menu’s feng shui—so clear it out. But be careful not to toss Apple menu essentials like the Chooser and Sherlock or you’ll really face some bad chi.

☑ Use appropriate Finder views

One size does not fit all when it comes to viewing files in the Finder. Use the View command to set the most appropriate file view for each folder. For folders filled with many documents, use View As List—and don’t forget to use the hierarchical arrows to ferret out the contents of subfolders. Use View As Icons when the icons speak for themselves: for instance, if your graphics program creates icon versions of your art. The Buttons view (in Mac OS 8.5 and later) is great for easy, one-click access to programs, files, and folders—perfect for kids just starting out on their favorite computer.

☑ Share your Mac without stress

Just when you’ve got your Mac set up perfectly, along comes your roommate—the one who was kicked off The Real World for being obnoxious—to rearrange your icons and tweak your toolbars. A free program called MultiPrefs (<http://www.macsoftware.net/users/mjh>) lets you share your Mac without losing your personal setup. MultiPrefs allows you to create different preferences files for any application, then quickly switch between them. This way, you and your roommate can use the same apps without messing up each other’s prefs. It’s not as satisfying as forcing your roommate to get his or her own Mac (after all, he or she can still get peanut butter on the keyboard), but it’s a start.

☑ Glue down your icons

It never fails: Every time you change the screen resolution or accidentally choose the Clean Up command, your perfect desktop icon arrangement gets scrambled. One solution is Desktop Resetter, a \$10 shareware tool that remembers where you keep your icons. If they ever get moved, it rearranges them in the positions they originally occupied. It’s available from <http://www.members.home.net/goddfadda>.

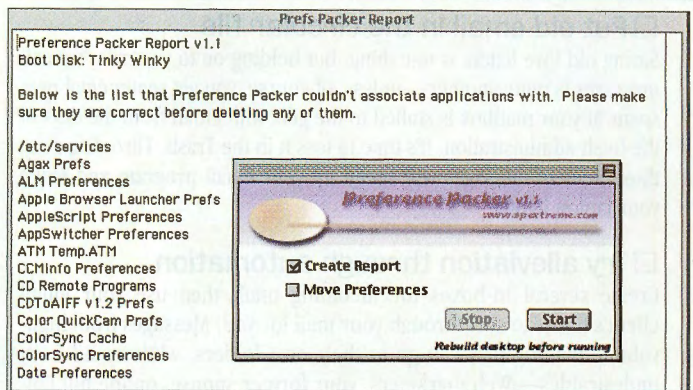
(The exceptionally tidy will also want to check out Desktop Cleaner from the same programmer, which maintains specified icons on the desktop and sends everything else to the Trash.)

Files and Folders

☑ Pick and choose your preferences carefully

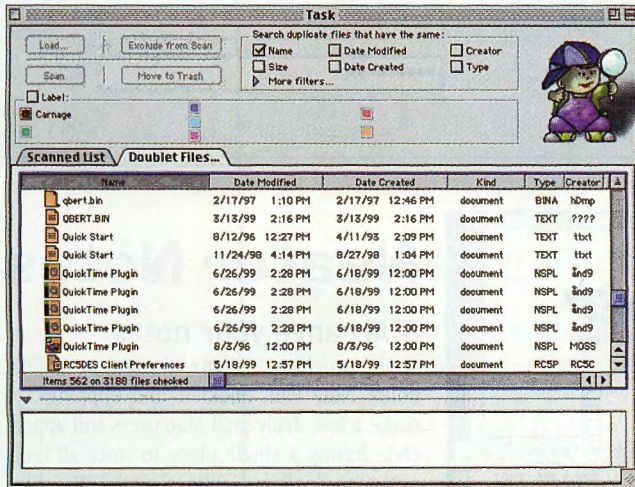
Remember when your nephew visited in the summer of '97 and played Putt Putt Hits Puberty on your Mac? Even though you erased the program as soon as he left, chances are its preferences file, and those of hundreds of other forgotten programs, are still hibernating in your Preferences folder.

You can remove them yourself, attaining a Zen-like state and freeing up bytes at a time by trashing unneeded preferences files one by one. Or you can use Preference Packer, a simple tool that locates preference files whose applications no longer exist. It can simply list the offending files or it can move them out of the Preferences folder altogether. Preference Packer is a \$10 shareware program available from <http://www.spextreme.com>.



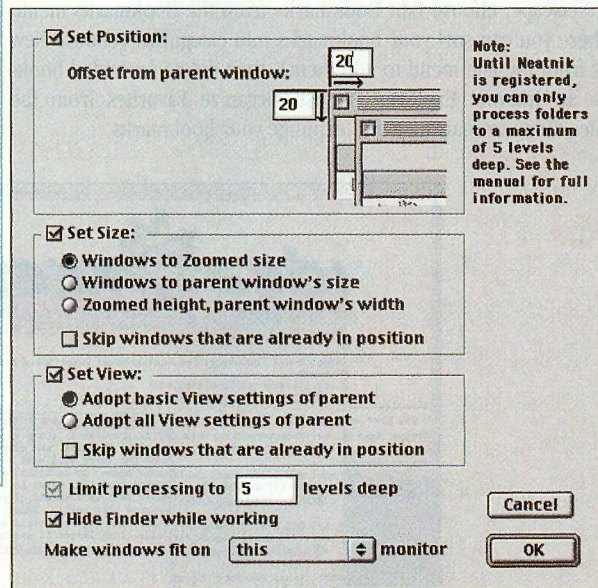
☑ Trash the twins

How many copies of SimpleText are hiding on your hard drive? Whether you want to know or not, Doublet Scan (\$25, <http://www.workingnet.com/hyperbolic>) can tell you. This program will scan your hard drive for duplicate files, including applications, plug-ins, even text files. When it finds a duplicate file, a click of the mouse punts the offender to the Trash.



☑ Be a Neatnik

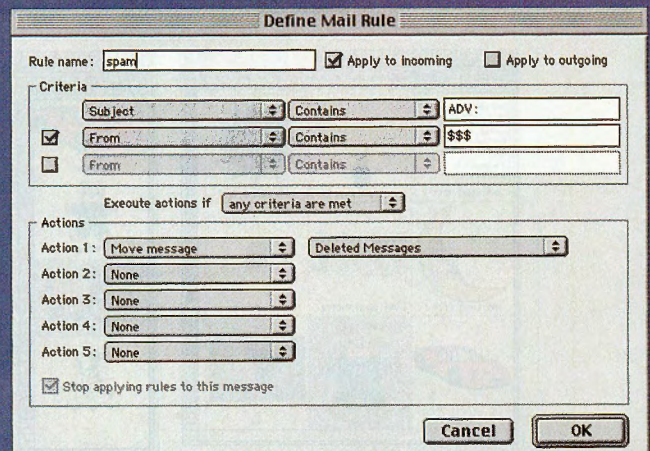
Obsessive neat freaks will appreciate Neatnik, a shareware tool (\$10, <http://www.ironsoftware.com>) that tidies up your folder windows. The utility can set the position, size, and view options for several folders at once, even for all of the folders on your Mac in one fell swoop. You can easily set the view characteristics, as well as the size and position attributes, of a batch of folders based upon the characteristics of their parent folder.



Filtering Out the Crap

Use filters to make your email program sort through your messages before you do. This can be a great way to move unimportant messages (for instance, those from mailing lists) to a special folder, or to dump spam in the Trash. Here's how to set up a filter in Outlook Express:

1. Choose Mail Rules from the Tools menu. Press New to create a filter.
2. Select the Apply To Incoming check box, since you'll be filtering incoming mail. Give your filter a descriptive name.
3. Enter the filtering criteria—you can filter based on the subject, sender, body text, or other criteria. The filter activates when email meets any of these presets.
4. What should happen to these filtered messages? You could move them to a special folder, or highlight messages from important people in red. In this example, messages that are clearly spam—those with "ADV:" in the subject line or "\$\$\$" in the From field—are unceremoniously trashed.



Immaculate Internet

☑ Put old email in the circular file

Saving old love letters is one thing, but holding on to yesterday's email messages is quite another—unless, of course, you get sentimental over spam. If your mailbox is stuffed to the gills with email from the days of the Bush administration, it's time to toss it in the Trash. Throwing away those ancient messages will speed up your email program and make your laptop lighter.

☑ Try alleviation through automation

Create several in-boxes for incoming mail, then use your email client's filters to sort through your mail for you. Messages from high-volume mailing lists can go to their own folders, while email from undesirables—Web marketers, your former spouse, online bill collectors—goes straight to the Trash. (If you use Eudora, choose Filters from the Special menu; if you prefer Outlook Express, select Mail Rules from the Tools menu.)

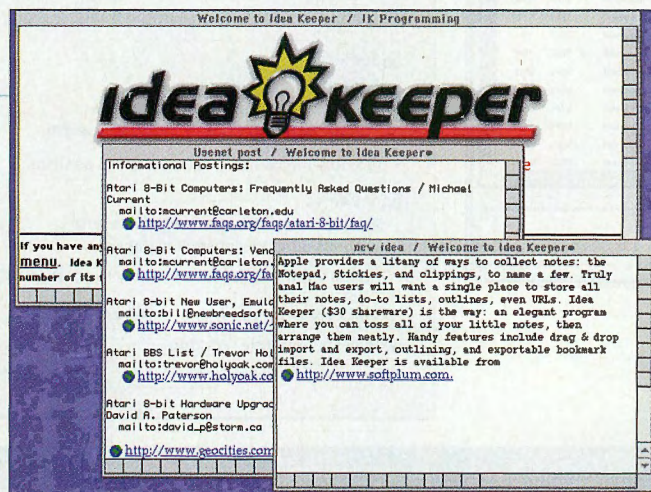
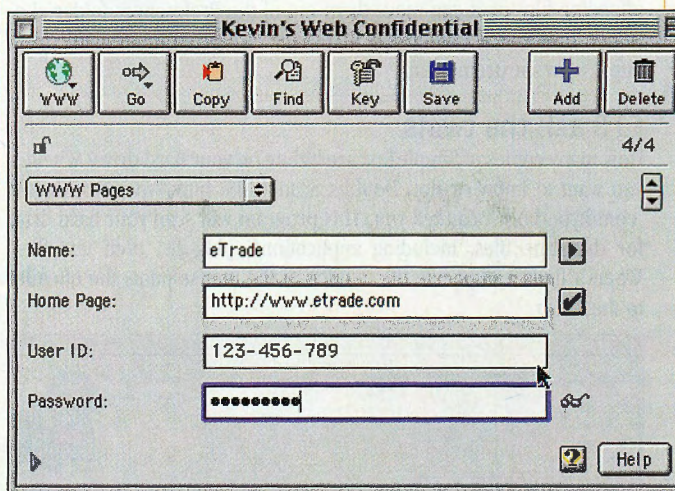
☑ Do something about all those bookmarks

Your browser's Add Bookmark or Add Page To Favorites function is a quick way to file a URL for future use, but it leaves your marked sites an unorganized mess. Fortunately, both Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer have handy functions for clearing up this chaos.

In Netscape, choose Edit Bookmarks from the Bookmarks menu; from here you can sort your bookmarks into categories (choose New Folder from the File menu to add them), then delete unwanted bookmarks. In Internet Explorer, choose Organize Favorites from the Favorites menu to rearrange and expunge your bookmarks.

☑ File your Web site passwords

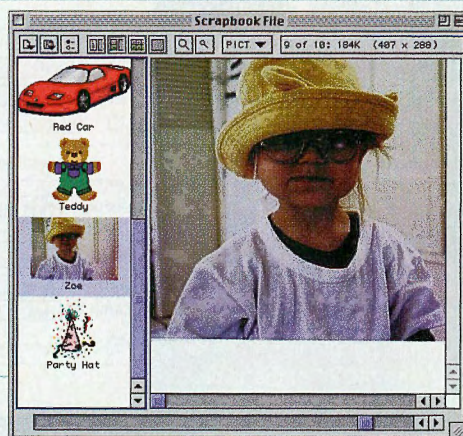
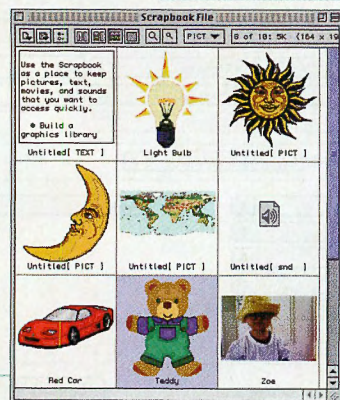
If you're a typical Web surfer, you probably have accounts and passwords on a dozen different sites: Web email accounts, auction sites, online banks...the list goes on. It's impossible to remember all of those passwords, and sticking notes on your monitor is a step backward in our goal of achieving cleanliness. Instead, try Web Confidential, a shareware tool (\$25, <http://www.web-confidential.com>) that will store all your passwords and encrypt them, too. It uses an intuitive card-file metaphor and plays nicely with your favorite Internet applications.



Neater Notes

☑ Arrange your notes

Apple provides a litany of ways to collect notes: Note Pad, Stickies, and Clippings, to name a few. Truly anal Mac users will appreciate having a single place to store all their notes, to-do lists, outlines, and URLs. Idea Keeper (\$30, <http://www.softplum.com>) is the way to go: an elegant program where you can toss all of your little notes, then arrange them neatly, saving you many sleepless nights. Handy features include drag-and-drop import and export, outlining, and exportable bookmark files.



☑ Straighten your Scrapbook

When was the last time you cleaned out your Scrapbook? It's a pigsty! It's easy to keep the Scrapbook organized with ScrapIt Pro, a shareware program (\$20, <http://www.northcoast.com/~jvholder>) that is 200 percent sexier than Apple's plain-vanilla Scrapbook. You can name items and view them by name or in a nifty gallery mode. And why didn't Apple think of putting a Find command in its Scrapbook? You won't know how you lived without it.

Macnificent Mac

☒ Sweep and dust

Now that you've tidied up the files and folders in your Mac, it's time to scrape the dirt off it. There's no handy shareware available for this—a damp cloth and some elbow grease is all you need to remove the grime from the exterior of your beloved computer and components. Put a splash of vinegar-water solution on a lint-free cloth to clean the monitor glass without leaving streaks. You may want to unplug your Mac and open the case (if you have a Mac that opens easily, that is—don't try this on an iMac) to remove the dust that invariably collects inside. A variety of tiny vacuum cleaners, available from electronics stores, can suck the muck from your Mac.

☒ **Organize your archives**

Isn't it time to tame those towering piles of CD-ROMs, bulging boxes of floppies, and stacks of unlabeled Zip disks? Grab a pen and make notes about what's on those disks. Maybe it's time to toss those System 6 install disks and other Stone Age software. Burn a few greatest-hits CD-ROMs and get rid of the rest.

☒ **Out with the old,**
in with the new

So your cleaning spree has uncovered a forgotten 14.4 modem, a dusty Mac Classic, and mounds of one-version-ago software. Instead of taking it all to the dump, consider donating your old hardware and software to a school or nonprofit community group. The Pep National Directory of Computer Recycling Programs at http://www.microweb.com/pepsite/Recycle/recycle_index.html can locate a worthy organization in your state. You'll not only feel good about yourself, but also have room for all those new DVD titles you've been coveting.

☒ **Cow-tie your cables**

Now it's time to tidy up behind your Mac. How can you sleep knowing that tangled mess of cables is winding its way around? Use twist-ties—the large kind that come with big garbage bags—to bundle cables together. Reusable, color-coded velcro strips are commercially available and very effective. The extraordinarily anal can run their cables through flexible plastic conduit, keeping wires neat and out of sight.

☒ Put your records in order

The old joke says that something will go wrong with your computer the day after the warranty expires. Actually, if something goes wrong, it will be two days *before* the warranty expires, but you'll be unable to find any proof of when you bought it. Prepare for the worst by filing the sales receipts away. Find a file folder—an actual, real, paper-based one. In it, stuff the receipts for every hardware and software item you own. If you have equipment repaired, put the receipt and warranty for the repair job in there, too. You'll have a complete record of your computer system. This is handy in case it is stolen, you decide to sell it, or the warranty deadline is looming.

Kevin Savetz (savetz@northcoast.com) is a freelance writer based in Northern California. If he practiced what he preached, his Mac would be much tidier.

Font Fixer-Upper

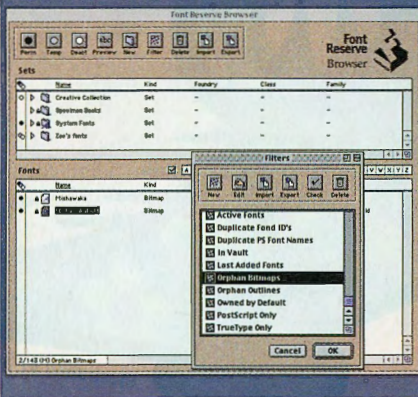
A messy Fonts folder is more than ugly. Having too many fonts installed at once can slow down applications and lead to migraine-inducing font conflicts. A font management program like Font Reserve can prevent your fonts from taking over your System Folder and ruining your life. A free, working

demo of Font Reserve, which can organize up to 100 fonts, is available from <http://www.fontreserve.com>. The complete version, which can wrangle tens of thousands of fonts, costs \$89.95 (\$119.95, if you want the CD and manual).

First, drag all of your fonts into Font-Reserve's browser window. The program creates a database of your fonts, enabling you to activate and deactivate each one on the fly. At this point, you can remove all the fonts from the Fonts folder (in your System folder) except Charcoal, Chicago, Monaco, and Geneva.

Use the filter to find the fonts you need by name. Using the Filter menu, you can seek out problem fonts, such as those with orphaned bitmaps and duplicate Font IDs. You can also organize your fonts into sets, if you wish.

When you can't remember what a font is like, view or print a specimen sheet (choose from several in the Specimen menu). In the Preview window, you can see technical info about the font, kerning data, a character map, and other information.





spud

Ultimate Cythorosp

by David Reynolds



FIND
SOFTWARE
from this
article on
The Disc.



Illustration by Scott Mathews



Perhaps your parents were poor russets from Idaho, spending hot summer days in the fields and cold winter nights in a dank potato cellar. Or perhaps you hail from farther north and west, a descendant of a Yukon Gold couple lured to the fields of Canada during Jack London's days. Your ancestors may even have come from overseas, perhaps

a pair of well-heeled Russian Bananas fleeing the terror of the Bolshevik revolution. But that doesn't matter so much in the late 1990s. We're all couch potatoes with a common stripe here—technology. We've even moved beyond the La-Z-Boy-bound days of our parents, glued to the TV or even the radio. We've evolved into tubers on another level: cyber-spuds. Armed with our Macs and Internet connections, we can jack in and veg out in front of our monitors, listening to the latest music and watching world news as it happens. Since the advent of streaming QuickTime and MP3-based music, the choices are truly overwhelming.

Don't get too steamed, though—we'll show you the best media tools, where to find the latest content, and how to set up your Mac to be a screaming media machine. All you have to worry about is the rest of your life, because once you're set up, you're liable to take root at your keyboard.

Jargon Buster

MP3—MPEG audio layer 3, an audio coding scheme that makes small file sizes.

Icecast—A form of MP3 that can be streamed over the Internet.

Shoutcast—Also a form of MP3 that can be streamed over the Internet.

Streaming—A way of sending audio, video, or both over the Internet like a radio broadcast.

Media for Luddites

If you're just not sure whether streaming media is for you, or if you're still running on that 14.4-kbps modem you bought at a yard sale for \$5 last year, you may want to stay away from media of the streaming variety and investigate media of a more static sort: the Web page. Here are five off-the-beaten-path pages you should check out if you're interested in the best (or most offbeat) news.

The Onion (<http://www.theonion.com>)—The hands-down funniest spoof of actual news media has to be The Onion. This site has a brilliant combination of deadpan headlines and stories that turn ordinary events into seemingly newsworthy stories. Updated weekly, The Onion also features a print magazine for those who just can't stand the thought of reading a newspaper online.

Scripting News (<http://www.scripting.com>)—This site by Frontier guru Dave Winer features one of the best—and most eclectic—technology-related news collections around. Scripting News covers all things Internet-related, has an innovative user interface, and closely follows hot topics (such as XML). If you want an intelligent perspective on technological happenings, Scripting News is a great place to get it.

NewsPage (<http://www.newspage.com>)—NewsEdge's NewsPage lets you build a custom electronic newspaper using tons of sources. You can either browse the site's news listings or create your own customized news page, then have that page emailed to you every morning. NewsPage also tracks stocks and company news, so you can do your portfolio research while you're at it.

Salon (<http://www.salon.com>)—An online-only magazine, Salon launched a couple of years back to test the electronic magazine waters. Salon carries news from other sources, but its main draw is its high-quality original content. Salon drew national attention by breaking news related to the Monica Lewinsky affair.

Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird (<http://www.newsoftheweird.com>)—If you've had your fill of serious headlines, then it's time to stop by Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird. News of the Weird started as a newspaper column, which reprinted the oddest true stories from the news for your disbelieving perusal. Now you can search the database of past columns, look in various categories of weird news (including death and Texas), and even email individual stories to friends. By the time you read this, you should be able to sign up for email delivery of News of the Weird.



Audio

Net music is the hottest thing to hit the Internet since people auctions came to Monster Board. Actually, it's much hotter than that. The MP3 format, with its ability to keep high-quality audio files very small, is changing both music distribution and the way lots of us listen to music. Thing is, MP3 files that sit on your hard drive aren't the only way to listen to music. There are other file formats, players, and even streaming MP3 broadcasts. Don't get your starch in an uproar if it seems like too much—we'll help you get the good stuff.

Sizzling Sites

Although you'll find tons of places to get your audio fix, we thought we'd recommend a few you just shouldn't miss.

MP3.com (<http://www.mp3.com>)—This is the mother of all MP3 music sites on the Web. Here, you'll find thousands of MP3 files—the problem is that you have to wade through all the mediocre music to get to the gems. There are definitely some in there, however, so it's worth spending time browsing through the various categories if you know what you're looking for. Downloading files from this site can be a bit confusing: if you click the Save link and you have the QuickTime plug-in installed, you'll end up getting your MP3 in a browser window, which you'll have to save manually to disk. If you option-click the Save link, you'll get the file, but you'll also get a funky file name that you'll have to fix at some point.

Liquid Audio (<http://www.liquidaudio.com>)—The idea behind Liquid Audio is that you can browse through a bunch of songs by popular artists (such as Puff Daddy and Tori Amos), sample various tracks, and then buy the tracks you want, usually at a couple of bucks a pop. Once you've purchased the tracks, you download them and burn them onto a CD for your personal enjoyment. To do this, you'll need the Liquid Audio player (available for download).

Eatsleepmusic (<http://www.eatsleepmusic.com>)—It's a small site, but it has quite a few MP3 files available for your pleasure. The big plus here is that Eatsleepmusic has a great selection of downloadable karaoke—yes, karaoke.

Emusic (<http://www.emusic.com>)—Another place where you can go to buy downloadable music, Emusic features MP3 and RealAudio clips by some well-known artists, including They Might Be Giants and several artists from Epitaph Records. You can buy and download individual tracks for just 99 cents.

Shoutcast (<http://www.shoutcast.com>)—If you've decided not to use AMPCast to track Shoutcast network broadcasts, you can go straight to the source: the Shoutcast home page. The site lists a ton of broadcasts right up front, and lets you search by genre and bandwidth requirements.

Cool Tools

MP3 Players

It wasn't long ago that MacAMP was the only MP3 player available for the Macintosh, but that's changed—radically. Now, there are several MP3 players out there: some shareware, some commercial. Here's the scoop on what's available this very minute.

Audion—Aside from offering amazing face plates, this MP3 player from Panic (the folks behind Transmit) handles audio CDs, MP3 files, and network audio streams, all in one elegant player. (\$17.95, <http://www.panic.com>)

GrayAMP—This no-frills MP3 player can handle most of your MP3 needs (if you've already saved the files on your hard drive), but the best thing about it is that it's free. It even one-ups the QuickTime player—it has a playlist and QuickTime Player doesn't. Nyahh! (Free, <http://www.digithought.net/software/grayamp>)

MacAMP—The granddaddy of MP3 players on the Mac, MacAMP plays MP3 files, CD audio, and network streams. MacAMP has several plug-ins available, and a ton of face plates if you want to give the player a custom look. (\$10, <http://www.macamp.net>)

N2MP3—Yet another entrant in the MP3 field, N2MP3 plays MP3 files, and it also encodes them from other sources (such as audio CDs), letting you convert your own music collection to MP3 format. (\$24.95, <http://www.n2mp3.com>)

QuickTime Player—In version 4.0, Apple included support for the MP3 format. QuickTime can play back MP3 files, but it lacks support for basic things such as playlists and streaming MP3. (Free, <http://www.apple.com/quicktime>)

SoundApp—Although it's not strictly an MP3 player (and doesn't feature the funky new appearances other players do), SoundApp is a rock-solid sound application that does a fine job with MP3 files. Plus, it doesn't cost a thing! (Free, <http://www-cs-students.stanford.edu/~franke/SoundApp>)

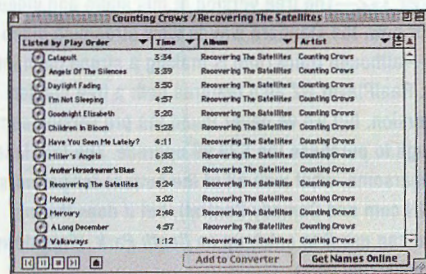
SoundJam MP—The only commercial entrant in the MP3 field, SoundJam boasts lots of features, including MP3 playback and encoding, streaming MP3, a complete playlist, and a very cool selection of face plates. (\$39, <http://www.soundjam.com>)

Vamp—This minimalist MP3 player does the MP3 job, playing back MP3 files and offering a basic playlist. It does it all from a teeny LED-style window, too. (\$10, <ftp://ftp.ens.fr/pub/mac/hqx/audio-video/Vamp.1.01.sit.hqx>)

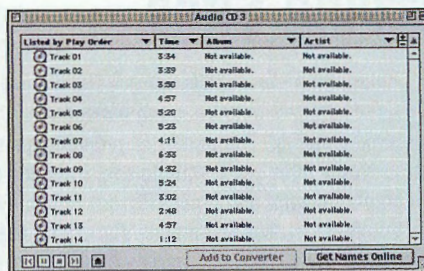
Convert Your Own Tunes

One of the things you'll probably want to do as soon as you start playing with MP3 software is pull songs off your audio CDs and encode them as MP3 files. This lets you build your own music collection, getting rid of the lousy tracks and keeping the gold. Here's how you extract audio tracks from a CD using SoundJam; the process is similar for any MP3 encoder.

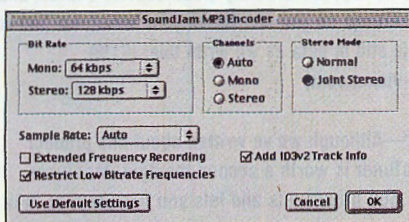
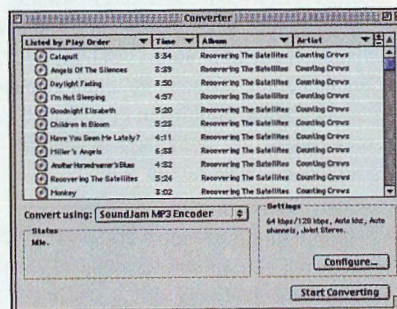
Step 1: Get it together. Put the audio CD in your CD-ROM drive. After it comes up on the desktop, launch SoundJam. A playlist window with the CD's tracks in it will pop up.



Step 2: Take names. Make sure that SoundJam is configured to name files via CDDb (you can check this by calling up the CD Lookup portion of the Preferences window). Then click the Get Names Online button, and SoundJam will fill in all of the titles for you.

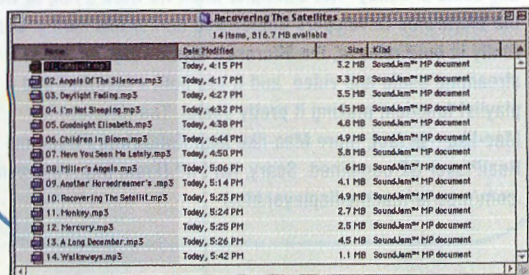
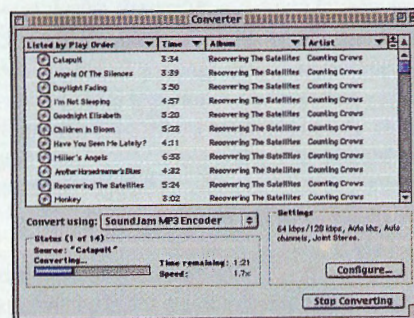


Step 3: Make the list. Open the Converter window by selecting Converter from the Window menu. Drag the CD icon onto the window, and the CD's audio tracks will appear in the window, properly named and everything.

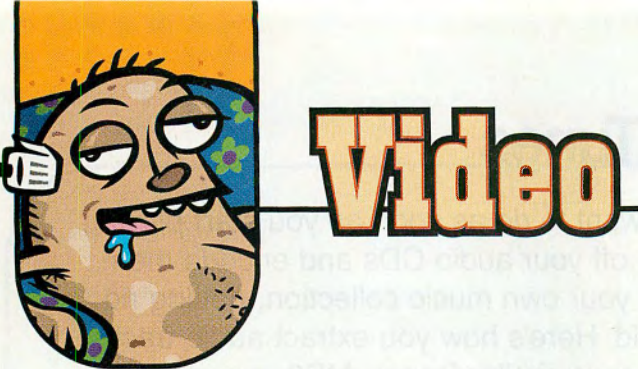


Step 4: Set it up. Time to do the final checklist. Make sure that SoundJam MP3 Encoder is selected in the Convert Using pop-up menu. Click the Configure button and make sure that the Sample Rate is set to Auto, the Mono bit rate is set to 64 kbps, and the Stereo bit rate is 128 kbps.

Step 5: Go for it. Click the Start Converting button and sit back while SoundJam starts encoding. Although you can put SoundJam in the background, keep it in the foreground for the best performance—it'll convert files up to twice as quickly if it's in front.



Step 6: File your files. When it's done converting, SoundJam will put all of the tracks in a folder with the CD's name on it. That folder appears in the SoundJam folder. Congrats—you've converted your CD.



Sizzling Sites

iFilm Network (<http://www.ifilm.com>)—The iFilm Network features tons of independent streaming films, mostly from folks you've never heard of. The quality is generally good, and there are some clever titles you'll want to see, including *Son of Bambi Meets Godzilla* and *Frying Private Fryan*. iFilm also carries commentary and columnists discussing regional independent film, as well as a community area. You're going to need Netscape Navigator to visit, because iFilm says that Internet Explorer can't render the pages properly. You'll also need RealPlayer G2 to see the films. We had some problems accessing the site because portions of it are dynamically generated from a database that wasn't working properly.

Bijou Cafe (<http://www.bijoucafe.com>)—Featuring an eclectic blend of classic films, indie productions, and animated shorts, Bijou Cafe has some great stuff. If you visit, be sure to check out the Titanic parody, *Iceberg*. Be warned, though—as is true of many film festivals, portions of Bijou Cafe's content may offend some people, but that's the risk you take. This site requires RealPlayer to work properly.

MovieFlix.com (<http://www.movieflix.com>)—This site has a tremendous collection of older movies and television shows, and it's a personal favorite of ours because it features several episodes of *The Three Stooges* and even the full cinematic version of *A Boy and His Dog*, a 1975 science fiction film starring Don Johnson and Tiger from *The Brady Bunch*. Movie Flix requires RealPlayer—surprise—to operate, but it's hassle-free once installed.

Broadcast.com (<http://www.broadcast.com>)—Although it's a tad commercial (there are button ads *everywhere*), Broadcast.com has a huge selection of streaming media covering film, television, and radio. Ignoring QuickTime completely, Broadcast.com relies on RealPlayer G2 to get the content to your Mac. The site features tremendous content (including fishing documentaries and *The Extreme Gong Show*), as well as annoyances such as pop-up windows. Registration is mandatory for using the site.

QuickTime Showcase (<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/showcase>)—This site features a ton of content (including movie trailers, radio shows, and live video broadcasts) that work with the new QuickTime Player app. The selection is smaller than, say, Broadcast.com's, but it's high-quality stuff, including the *Star Wars* trailers, San Francisco Comedy Day, Lilith Fair, Weird Al's latest video, and NPR's live Webcast. All you need is the QuickTime player and an Internet connection.

Cool Tools

QuickTime 4.0—The premier multimedia tool from Apple, QuickTime 4.0 features a multitude of codecs (the bits of software that let QuickTime understand various file formats, such as MP3), making it compatible with almost any media type out there. The player itself can play back movies as well as audio files, and it can also handle Flash animations and karaoke files (for those of you who like that sort of thing). QuickTime 4.0 also works with streaming media of several kinds, including audio, video, and Flash. The QuickTime Player interface has some problems (such as the Favorites tray featuring generic icons and no names), but the technology is rock-solid. Those who want to make their own streaming media can upgrade to QuickTime Pro 4.0 for \$29. (Free download, <http://www.apple.com/quicktime>)

RealPlayer G2—The free version of this audio and video viewer is, for now, the standard way to view streaming video on the Web—although QuickTime is making a strong push into this market. RealPlayer G2 also features both a free version and a pro version, but we've never found the pro version compelling enough to purchase the \$29.99 upgrade. The interface is a bit cumbersome, what with all of the buttons for partners (such as CNN.com and Comedy Central), but it does the job. Besides, you can use it to catch up on *South Park*. (Free download, <http://www.real.com>)

Sorenson Broadcaster—For those of you who want to turn your Mac into a mobile Web-streaming powerhouse (and who have access to a Mac OS X Server machine with a high-speed connection), you'll want to look into Sorenson Broadcaster. This high-powered software will let you set up your own QuickTime-based broadcast of audio, video, or both. The product features support for many video capture boards, and it has a ton of settings so you can tweak your broadcast just so. Broadcaster is still in beta as we write this. (\$199, <http://www.s-vision.com>)

MacTuner—Although we've written about this product recently, MacTuner is worth a second mention. MacTuner tracks over 1,500 broadcasts and lets you find them by their location, format, or even using an integrated search engine. You can save favorites in presets so you don't have to go searching for them each time. Right now, MacTuner only supports Real Media broadcasts, but the developers are looking into including QuickTime support. (\$22.95, <http://www.mactuner.com>)

Microsoft Media Player—It's hard to find a use for this bit of software from the Redmond empire, but it does occasionally come in handy—for example, when we were trying to view the Worldwide Developers Conference earlier this spring. Currently in beta release, the Microsoft Media Player handles streaming audio and video, and it has both a favorites and a playlist function, making it pretty useful. The interface is Mac-like—in fact, more Mac-like than QuickTime Player and RealPlayer G2 combined. Scary, isn't it? (Free, <http://microsoft.com/mac/ie/macmediaplayer.htm>)

Make a Poster Frame

One of the more annoying features of the new QuickTime Player is its favorites drawer. Drop a movie on it, and QuickTime uses the first frame of that movie (often black) as its icon in the drawer, with no other identifiers. Worse, drop an audio file on the drawer, and you get a generic waveform icon. Here's how you can set a poster frame for your favorite files so that you can tell the difference between them.

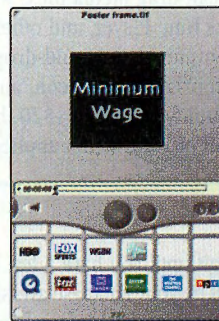
Step 1: Open the file. Using the QuickTime Player, open the file to which you want to add a poster frame. In our case, it's an MP3 audio file, but this technique should work for just about any file. The generic waveform icon represents our file in the favorites drawer.



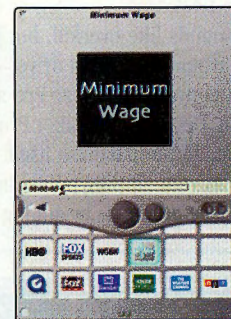
Step 2: Make a frame. Using your favorite graphics program, make a simple graphic stating what the file is. Be sure to make the text large enough to read when shrunk to a very small size. Save the file in a format QuickTime can read (PICT, TIFF, or JPEG will do fine).



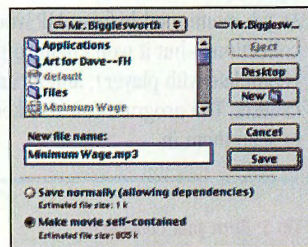
Step 3: Import the file. Go back to QuickTime Player and select Import from the File menu. Import the poster frame graphic that you just created. It should appear in a new movie player window.



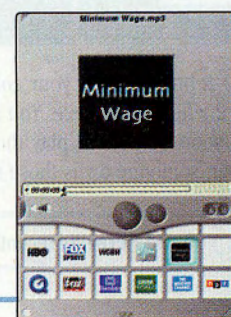
Step 4: Move the frame. Copy the poster frame from your imported file and paste it into the first frame of your audio file. Make sure that the counter reads 00:00:00 when you paste the image.



Step 5: Save the movie. Now save your modified movie. The poster frame will add just a little to the size of the movie file, but it shouldn't be too noticeable. Be warned, though, that if you modify and save an MP3 file, other MP3 players may not play it. QuickTime should handle it just fine, though.



Step 6: All done. Drag the icon of your new movie onto QuickTime Player's favorites drawer, and your new poster frame icon should show up. Hopefully, you made the text big enough to be legible at a small size.



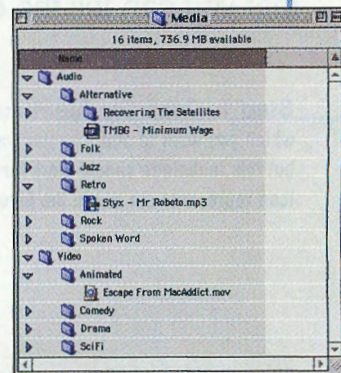
Organizing Your Stuff

Five Tips for Keeping It Clean

Now that your Mac is a lean, mean media machine, you're going to find yourself collecting lots of audio and video files. You'll have to figure out what to do with all of them. Here are our top five tips for keeping control of your audio files.

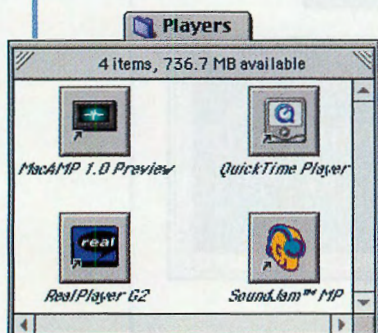
Tip 1: Keep it organized from the start.

Before you start collecting too many files, take a few minutes and create a folder hierarchy to contain them all. Start with one folder titled Media, and inside that create two more folders—one titled Audio and one titled Video. Set your Media folder's view to List, and open your Audio and Video folders. Then start categorizing inside those folders. It's probably best to categorize by genre—the Finder will take care of alphabetizing for you. Once you have the folder structure set up, it's a snap to start organizing as you download.



Tip 2: Use a pop-up window.

Yes, that's right—use a pop-up window. Make a folder somewhere unobtrusive (perhaps in your System Folder), and call it Players or whatever you like. Set the view to Button (you want nice, big targets to drag files to), keep them arranged by name, and then attach the window to the bottom of your screen. This gives you a convenient, out-of-the-way window to which you can drag media files. Why is this useful? Sometimes you'll want to open an MP3 file with QuickTime Player, and other times you'll want to open the same file with Audion. If you have a convenient drag-and-drop window available, all you need to do is drag your file to the appropriate button icon, and away you go. Alternatively, you can use Aladdin Systems' excellent utility DragStrip (\$20, <http://www.aladdinsys.com>) to set up a media strip to house icons for all of your media applications.



Tip 3: Use a database.

Sure, it sounds like overkill, but just wait until you have a few hundred MP3 songs running around your hard drive—that'll fix your database aversion. That's when you fire up a copy of FileMaker Pro and start filing vital information about your media collection. Because FileMaker Pro handles QuickTime, you can insert images of your media files in the database itself. Just use the Video Database or Album Collection template as your starting point, and modify it as you need for your media collection. A great place to start is by adding a container field to store the movie file.



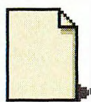
Tip 4: Try out MP3voodoo.

As we mentioned before, MP3voodoo makes a great utility for organizing your MP3 music collection—but it won't help you much with video. Still, MP3voodoo has a full-screen mode (complete with player), and it can generate playlists for you based on artist, genre, and other criteria. The program can also keep track of your CD covers—that is, if you've taken the time to scan them in.

Tip 5: Burn your collections.

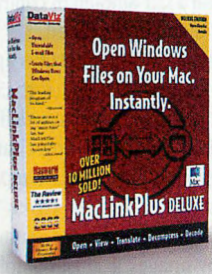
Finally, once you've collected a ton of files, you're going to want to get them off your hard drive—after all, they're probably eating up a couple of gigabytes of space by now. Enter the handy CD-R burner. Burn your collection to CD, and you can still enjoy it. Just put the appropriate CD in your Mac's CD-ROM drive and play the files from there. You can burn CDs by artist or genre, and with upcoming support for MP3s in home stereo equipment, you may soon be able to play those CDs in your new CD player. Beware of copyright restrictions on the CDs you burn, though. Remember, someone owns those songs and videos, and that person deserves to be paid for his or her work.

David Reynolds recently cleared 1.1GB of MP3 files from his hard drive to make room for some digital video.



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Without MacLinkPlus® Deluxe, you'll never know.



Is it a critical spreadsheet file? Is it a photo of your cousins at the Grand Canyon? Who knows? Certainly not you....because you can double-click it 'til your finger falls off, but it just won't open. Why? Maybe it originated on a Windows® machine, or was compressed, or was created with a program you don't own. Whatever the case, you need **MacLinkPlus Deluxe 11**. Over 10 million users already rely on it to open, decompress, and convert documents. So when a file arrives on your Mac, you double-click it, it opens. End of story.

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reviews

Let's bow our heads and give thanks for great new Mac products. Amen!

Photoshop 5.5

DESIGN & GRAPHICS

COMPANY: Adobe Systems

CONTACT: 800-492-3623 or 408-536-6000,

<http://www.adobe.com>

PRICE: \$610 (SRP); \$598.99 (street)

REQUIREMENTS: PowerPC, System 7.6 or later, 64MB of RAM (128MB recommended), 125MB of free hard disk space, CD-ROM drive, 256-color display



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The most valuable products, the coolest gizmos.



SPIFFY

A solid offering. Overall a good investment.



YEAH, WHATEVER

A few good features, but generally a waste of time and money.



BLECH!

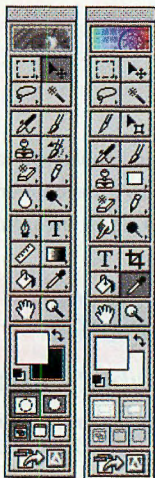
We hate to even blotch our pages with the thing.

Adobe Photoshop is one of the most important graphic design tools on the Macintosh. Hundreds of thousands of designers and artists use this application daily, so any update, no matter how large or small, is an important one. Photoshop 5.5 is definitely one of the larger updates, as Adobe combines two tools in one package—Photoshop 5.5 and ImageReady 2.0—and pushes this as the best solution for designing Web graphics. Though the upgrade includes several important features not specific to the Web, the biggest changes are in Web design workflow.

When Adobe first introduced ImageReady, Web graphic artists had to first create the graphics in Photoshop, then save the file in pieces, then go through the pieces in ImageReady to optimize them for the Web.

ImageReady itself was great as a compression tool, but it was essentially a crippled version of Photoshop in every other respect, so users pretty much had to work in both programs to get

IMAGEREADY FINALLY GETS A FULL TOOL PALETTE like that in Photoshop, but with more functions—cropping and slicing tools, and an application toggle button at the bottom.



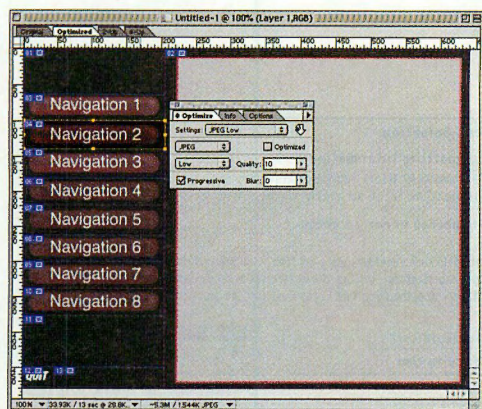
AIMED MAINLY AT WEB DESIGNERS, Photoshop 5.5 offers better integration with ImageReady and new compression options like this Save For Web dialog box.

the best-looking Web graphics. This workflow has essentially remained the same, but Adobe has improved the integration between Photoshop and ImageReady, making it easier to move graphics back and forth, and has beefed up ImageReady considerably, making it a useful tool in its own right.

New to version 5.5 of Photoshop are several masking tools, support for Adobe's PDF 1.3, some automation functions, and Web-specific features like Save For Web and gamma previews. If you're not a Web designer, the masking tools will be the reason for upgrading. A new Magic Eraser, Background Eraser, and Extract Image command all go a long way toward matching the masking strength of products like Extensis Mask Pro. The Magic Eraser works a lot like a combination of the magic wand tool and the eraser tool. You can either erase all the pixels in a layer that are similar in value to the one you first click on, or erase similar contiguous pixels. The Background Eraser works much the same way, but only erases similar pixels

you drag the cursor over. You can use the Background Eraser two ways: Either click a color and move the Background Eraser around, erasing only that color; or move the tool around and erase colors similar to the one the eraser's precision point is over. Both the Magic Eraser and the Background Eraser make selecting and removing colors from an image much easier than it used to be, especially on images with a fair amount of contrast between foreground and background.

The Extract Image command brings up a palette designed to make clipping easier. You can highlight an object's edges, define the interior, adjust some settings, and extract the background. It sounds simple, but learning to use the tool effectively is actually quite difficult. The precise settings for complex, wispy images against complex backgrounds are nearly as difficult to achieve as cutting out the image by hand. Extracting backgrounds from images with fairly matte backgrounds is significantly easier, but there is still a learning curve.

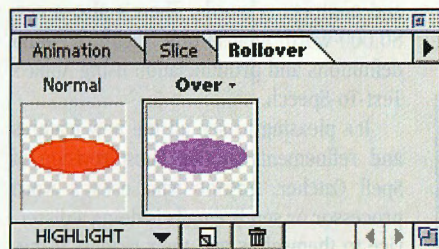


YOU CAN SLICE AN INTERFACE INTO DISCRETE SECTIONS with ImageReady and apply different compression settings to each piece before saving the entire document as individual, Web-optimized files.

Fortunately, the Extract Image palette allows you to preview and continue to adjust your settings until you get it right. Both the Extract Image command and the Background Eraser will remove the halo that usually surrounds a clipped image.

The automation functions are a nice addition, but not significant. Version 5.5 now lets you instantly create contact sheets or Web galleries of images you've worked on. The contact sheet automation feature extracts thumbnails from every image in a folder. The Web gallery actually exports Web pages with thumbnails on an index page and creates individual pages for each image, with built-in navigation.

Most of the Web-related improvements are in ImageReady, but Photoshop received some tweaking in this department as well. Choosing the new Save For Web menu command opens a preview and compression setting window that allows you to view the effects of compression on an image and set up a two- or four-image comparison so you can decide which setting is best. Three addi-



JAVASCRIPT ROLLOVERS ARE A SNAP to set up with ImageReady. You can create effects like mouse-overs just by turning on a layer.

tional preview options simplify cross-platform development: Macintosh RGB, Uncompensated RGB, and Windows RGB. With these options, judging the proper gamma of an image is significantly easier.

The only other big change in Photoshop is the way it works with ImageReady. Now, if you have an image open in either application, a click on the toggle button at the bottom of the toolbar moves the image and the user from one application to the other. Layers, histories, and effects can all transition between applications, creating a relatively seamless workflow of building graphics in Photoshop and optimiz-

ing them for the Web in ImageReady. Of course, the drawback is that RAM requirements have essentially doubled.

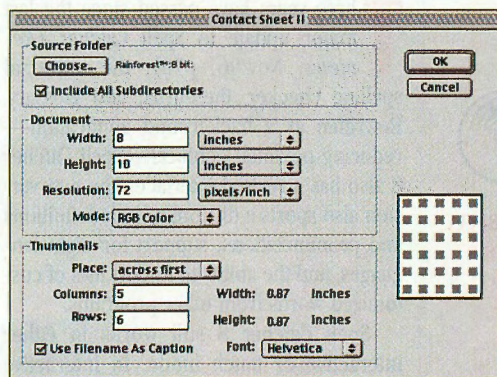
While Photoshop received only minor improvements, ImageReady has gotten an overhaul, adding new slicing tools, JavaScript and HTML generation, an improved compression preview, layer effects, improved type control, and a nearly full suite of editing tools, including the much-needed Crop tool and the new Magic Eraser.

Aside from tighter integration with Photoshop, the two features that Web graphic designers are going to use most are the compression previews and the new slicing tools. The compression preview is actually the main ImageReady window and works the same way as the new Save For Web command in Photoshop. You can choose to display the original image, an optimized version, a side-by-side comparison of the original and an optimized version, or a four-up comparison with the original and three different optimized versions.

The slicing tools are vastly improved over what was previously available. You can now use guides set in Photoshop or ImageReady to define and chop up different areas of the graphic to make individual Web graphics. Each one of these areas can have a unique compression setting as well, allowing you to use JPEG compression on photographic elements in an interface and GIF compression in areas with solid colors. If the guides don't provide

enough flexibility, a new Slice menu and Slicing tool give you plenty of options to define specific areas to cut out. Saving your optimized graphics cuts out every piece of your sliced layout automatically and generates an HTML document that reassembles the images in a table. If you change the slicing of an image later, you can even update the HTML file. You can also name each of the images in your sliced document, making it easier to track the different elements in a layout.

In conjunction with the slicing tools, ImageReady now has some pretty impressive JavaScript functionality. Rollovers are the most common form of JavaScript in Web



CREATING CONTACT SHEETS is easy, thanks to the new automation features.

sites, and ImageReady handles them perfectly. You can make an image respond to mouse movement or a click by simply changing a layer's visibility or adding layer effects. In addition to primary rollovers, you can set secondary rollovers that change or highlight a part of a layout rather than the graphic the mouse is moving over.

The Photoshop 5.5 package clearly targets Web graphic designers. Though this upgrade didn't include some of the features users have been begging for since version 4, such as hierarchical layers, if you do Web work, version 5.5 is a huge improvement, and even print designers will find enough to warrant upgrading. —Rick Sanchez

GOOD NEWS: Improved integration. New compression options. Excellent slicing tools. JavaScript support.

BAD NEWS: Still no hierarchical layers palette. Few improvements not related to the Web. Much higher RAM needs.



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reviews

reviews

Spell Catcher 8

PRODUCTIVITY

COMPANY: Casady & Greene

CONTACT: 800-359-4920 or 831-484-9228,

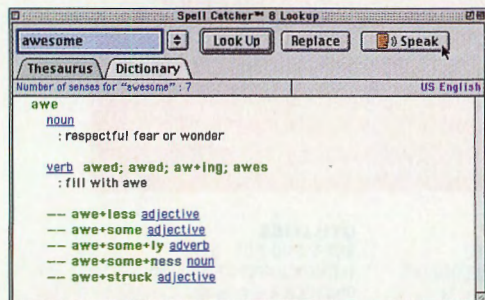
<http://www.casadyg.com>

PRICE: \$49.95 (SRP); \$19.95 upgrade

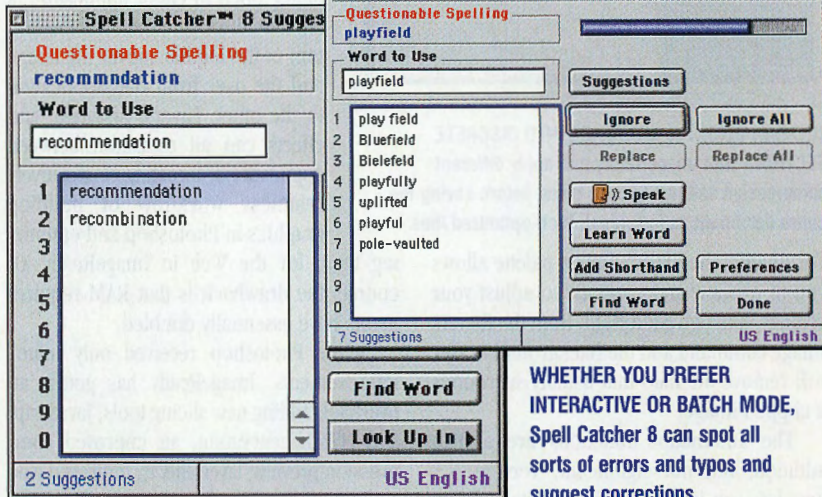
REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 8.1 or later, CD-ROM drive

Three years have passed since the last major update to Spell Catcher (*Reviews*, Nov/96, p70), the universal spelling checker, thesaurus, and glossary. Rewritten as a background application—reducing potential conflicts—Spell Catcher 8 also has a revised interface. The new version also sports a dictionary with definitions and pronunciations, support for eight languages, and the ability to import lists of customized words from other programs.

Spell Catcher 8 still works in either interactive or batch mode. In interactive mode, it beeps whenever it suspects a misspelling, incorrect capitalization, double word, or punctuation error (the program now optionally ignores email addresses and URLs). You can dismiss this warning, make the correction manually, or ask for a recommended correction. When Spell Catcher displays possible corrections, pressing the number corresponding to the correction you want changes the error in your document, allowing you to continue typing. For misspellings you tend to make repeatedly, add the correction to your shorthand glossary so that in the future it changes automatically as you type—great for expanding common abbreviations. Editing glossaries is easy now that you can type carriage returns, punctuation marks, and tabs normally.

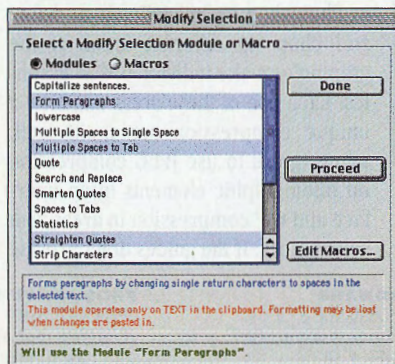


A DICTIONARY WITH DEFINITIONS is new in version 8, as is the ability to use Text-To-Speech to hear computerized pronunciations of words.



WHETHER YOU PREFER INTERACTIVE OR BATCH MODE, Spell Catcher 8 can spot all sorts of errors and typos and suggest corrections.

Of course, you can always teach Spell Catcher new words, which it saves to a special dictionary that augments the standard ones. New in Spell Catcher 8 is support for eight different languages: U.S. English, U.K. English, French, Canadian French, German, Swiss German, Italian, and Spanish. Also included are optional dictionaries for computer, geological and biological, HTML, legal, medical, and scientific and technical terms. You can even convert dictionaries from Correct Grammar, MacWrite II, Quark 3, SpellsWell, Thunder 7, Word, WordPerfect, or previous versions of Spell Catcher. By using a universal spelling check you maintain only one word list that works in all applications with a consistent interface, and you save disk space by deleting proprietary dictionaries.



ALTERING TEXT IS EASY with the new Modify Selection modules, which you can combine to create powerful editing tools.

All of the correction options in the interactive mode are also available when you process selections of text in batch mode. Suspect words appear in context, making it easy to tell if they're actually in error. Spell Catcher preserves the formatting of the document while making the corrections.

The new Modify Selection dialog box offers 18 options for changing capitalization, converting tabs to spaces and vice versa, and other useful text modifications. You can combine these modules to automate routine alterations. Very useful!

Spell Catcher's new Lookup window features a thesaurus with 1.5 million synonyms; antonyms; and related, compared, and contrasting words. There's also a new 80,000-word English-only dictionary with definitions and pronunciation using Apple's Text-To-Speech.

It's pleasing to see all the new features and refinements in this latest revision of Spell Catcher. Anyone who uses a word processor or sends emails is doing a disservice to themselves and their readers if they don't have Spell Catcher 8 installed on their Mac.—Owen W. Linzmayer

GOOD NEWS: Universal spelling check. Improved compatibility. Easier glossary editing. Supports eight languages. Many optional dictionaries. Contains word definitions.
BAD NEWS: Pronunciations not always correct. New interface requires learning new commands.



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The most revolutionary action/strategy game of its kind. Nothing else comes close to offering such an exciting combination of strategy, team-building, realistic three-dimensional graphics and true-to-life Special Forces action. The ultimate goal is to save yourself and the world from deadly terrorists. You must successfully complete 17 unique missions. If you die, the game isn't over, **THE WORLD IS.**



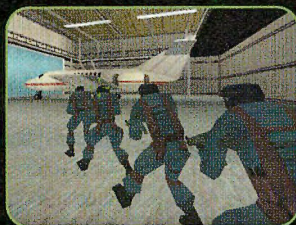
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PLAN THE ATTACK



EXECUTE THE MISSION



SAVE THE WORLD

INCLUDES
**MISSION PACK:
EAGLE WATCH**
THE OFFICIAL ADD-ON

COMING THIS FALL!

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Cult Effects Vol. 1

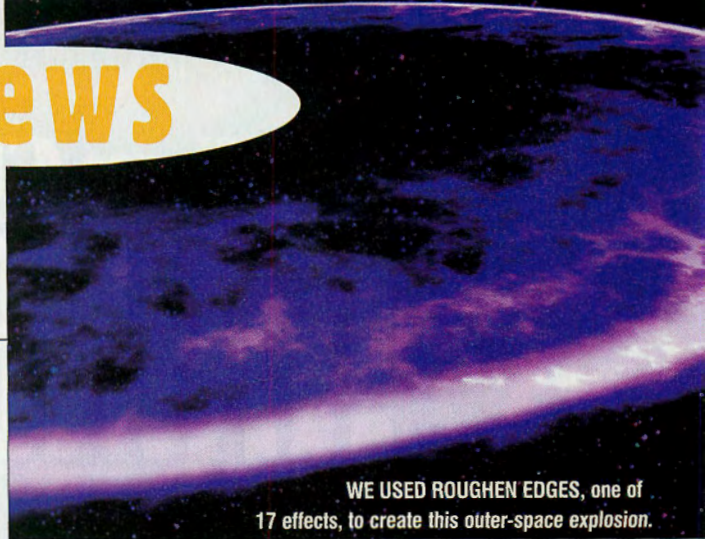
MULTIMEDIA

COMPANY: Cycore Computers

CONTACT: 877-529-2673 or 650-570-7722, <http://www.cycore.com>

PRICE: \$695 (SRP)

REQUIREMENTS: PowerPC, Mac OS 8.1 or later, 64MB of RAM, 1MB of free hard disk space, CD-ROM drive, Adobe After Effects 3.x or 4.0



WE USED ROUGHEN EDGES, one of 17 effects, to create this outer-space explosion.

Cycore Computers, the original Swedish creators of the Adobe After Effects plug-ins, Final Effects, has done it again. Cult Effects is Cycore's new set of 17 screamin' hot effects to put the edge on your ho-hum digital video projects. Any serious After Effects user will want this set of video helpers.

In case you don't know, After Effects allows you to add composites to video projects created in digital video editors such as Adobe Premiere and Apple's Final Cut Pro. After Effects lets you pile up layer upon layer

of video images, move them in every direction and around every axis, make them transparent to any degree, and combine everything into a QuickTime movie you can add to your project. Packages of plug-ins, which include both effects and filters, immensely magnify the power of After Effects, and Cult Effects is one of the best sets around. So what exactly does Cult Effects offer? Lots.

CE Paint is terrific. It lets you use a mouse or graphics tablet to draw or paint strokes of essentially any color, size, or shape onto a video frame or series of frames. CE Paint is vector-based and nondestructive, and you can animate everything you paint in ways that look organic or mechanical. Options include painting an alpha-matte.

CE Radial Shadow creates a shadow of an object in true perspective, and works well with any of the moving light sources you can devise in After Effects. You can make a shadow of any color and cast it through the transparent areas of a frame. You can alter the shadow's softness, its distance from the light source, and even drop out the object casting the shadow to leave only the shadow.

CE Magnify is simple but nifty. Use it to lay a virtual magnifying glass over a sequence.

PAINT A VIRTUAL ROOM—through which a real character can walk—onto video.

The magnified portion of the image is very high quality, and you can move the glass up, down, in, out, and around until you actually find Waldo.

CE Noise adds to your video that consummate contemporary media-commentary effect: noise. Show everyone that you know video noise and video content are really almost the same thing—layer different noise patterns over your footage. Even better, insert frames of nothing but noise instead of content, demonstrating your immeasurable comic distance. You can animate noise and add it to the luminance, hue, and saturation layers. Its grain type and size are also controllable.

While CE Paint and some of the other functions in Cult Effects are excellent workhorses, for sheer impact and coolness you can't beat CE Lightning. This effect lets you fire a hot bolt of forking, glowing, crackling (if you have the right sound effect) lightning at any person or object in your video; wrap someone in brilliant electric fire; and create faux electrical discharges and bristling current, all with complete control over the lightning's direction, origin, shape, color, radiance, duration, and any other quality you can imagine. Maybe it's just the 12-year-old kid in us, but we love this one.

Other effects include CE Cell Pattern, which lets you make cellular noise patterns; CE Color Link, for matching colors between layers; CE Optics Compensation, for adding camera lens distortion; CE Roughen Edges, for creating fractal-based, natural-looking animated borders around images; and more.

If you're a digital video producer, get Cult Effects soon, because it's sure to become standard quickly.—*Tim Tully*

GOOD NEWS: Great new effects.

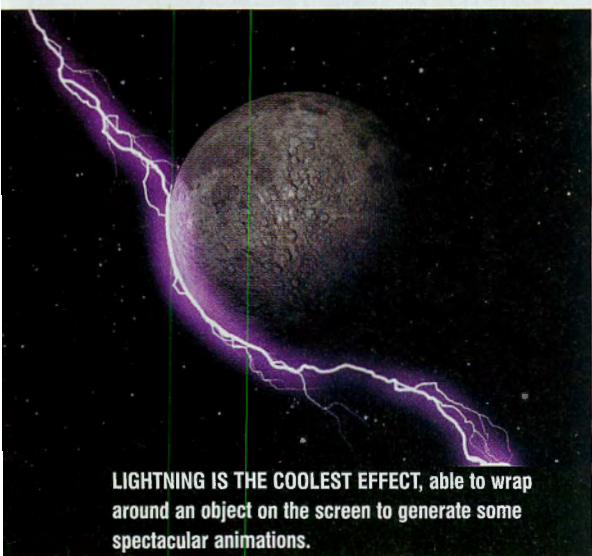
Familiar After Effects plug-in design.

One word: lightning. BAD NEWS:

Minimal manual. Requires familiarity with After Effects. It will soon be everywhere.



FIND A CULT EFFECTS demo on The Disc.



LIGHTNING IS THE COOLEST EFFECT, able to wrap around an object on the screen to generate some spectacular animations.





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ProFormance 3

HARDWARE

COMPANY: Formac

CONTACT: 925-251-0100, <http://www.formac.com>

PRICE: \$259 (SRP)

REQUIREMENTS: PCI-based Power Macintosh with a free full-size PCI slot

Graphics accelerator cards are getting ridiculously fast these days, and the ProFormance 3 adds to the trend with blazing pixel-blitting performance, tons of spiffy features, and a full-featured control panel. Who could ask for more?

Installing the ProFormance 3 is straightforward. Just pop open your Mac's case, seat the card in any available PCI slot, secure it, and close the case. The software install isn't much more difficult—simply drag the appropriate control panel from the CD-ROM to your System Folder, restart, and you're on your way.

In our tests, the ProFormance 3 card delivered amazing performance—in fact, it even trumped a Rage Orion card in the same machine. We applied Norton Utilities for Macintosh's System Ratings utility to see how the video cards stacked up in 11 video tests. The ProFormance was about twice as fast as the Rage Orion in that benchmark. We also scrolled through a *huge* Word document to

see if the cards showed a difference in font handling. Again, the ProFormance 3 was faster, but only by about 10 percent this time. In day-to-day usage, the ProFormance delivered killer performance in a wide range of applications—2D-, 3D-, and QuickTime-dependent alike. In fact, performance was so good for most of these day-to-day operations that it was hard to see slowdowns or problems. One bummer in the 3D department is that the ProFormance 3 doesn't support OpenGL—yet. Formac says this problem should be fixed soon, perhaps by the time you read this.

The ProFormance 3 has a wide range of advanced features. In the control panel, you can toggle graphics acceleration (for 2D, 3D, or QuickTime) in case you hit some incompatibility. You can also turn on the built-in screen saver, alter the display's gamma, control what keys trigger the card's hardware zoom functions, change resolutions, select the size of the card's font cache, and toggle live window dragging. The latter two options

are of special interest. First, the adjustable font cache holds font information to speed up the display of text. In theory, having fonts cached makes sense, especially in documents with *lots* of fonts. In practice, we didn't notice much difference with the font cache on or off. The live window dragging worked amazingly well—dragging almost any window was flicker-free. A few types of windows still drag by outlines, though—notably Finder and Word document windows.

As far as nifty hardware features go, the ProFormance 3 can have 8MB, 16MB, or 32MB of VRAM—enough for just about any resolution—plus its 128-bit processor runs at a zippy 270MHz. The card itself can run in either the older 33MHz PCI slots or in the 66MHz slot found in the new G3 towers. Best of all, the ProFormance 3 features an expansion slot so that you can add a TFT or LVDS flat-panel display module—including those ultraspiffy SGI flat-panel monitors.

If you're looking for blazing graphics performance and you don't need 3Dfx support, you should check out the ProFormance 3 graphics card. Its power will keep you happy, especially if you've been lusting after one of those SGI displays. Once Formac fixes OpenGL on the ProFormance 3, it'll be great for games, too—but for now, it's fantastic for anyone who needs lightning-fast graphics performance. —David Reynolds

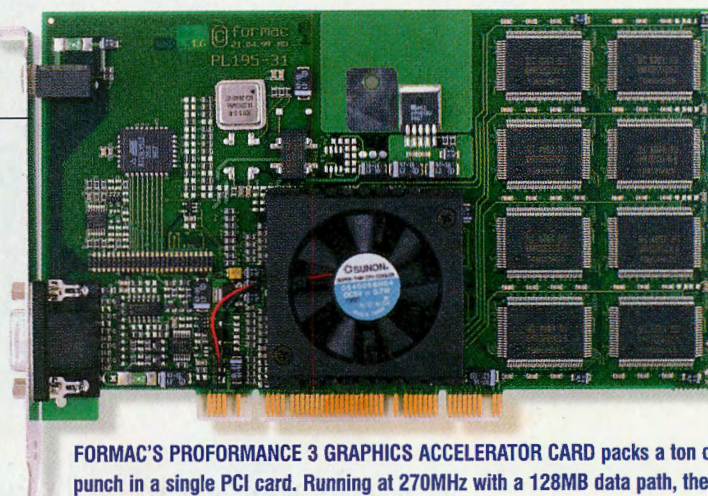


Photo by Aaron Lauer

FORMAC'S PROFORMANCE 3 GRAPHICS ACCELERATOR CARD packs a ton of punch in a single PCI card. Running at 270MHz with a 128MB data path, the ProFormance 3 slings data amazingly fast.

JUST HOW FAST IS IT?

Benchmarks can be dry and boring—not to mention misleading—but we felt it necessary to put the ProFormance 3 up against a comparable card to see how it performed. We chose ATI's top-of-the-line Rage Orion card. Here's how the two compared using the video portion of Norton Utilities for Macintosh's System Ratings:

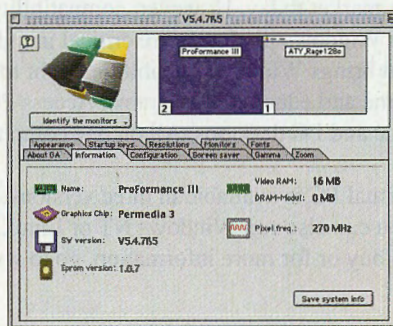
ProFormance 3 786
Rage Orion 392

(The higher the number, the better the performance.)

Scrolling through a 961-page Word document provides a less dramatic difference:

ProFormance 3 27 sec
Rage Orion 30 sec

(The lower the number, the better the performance.)



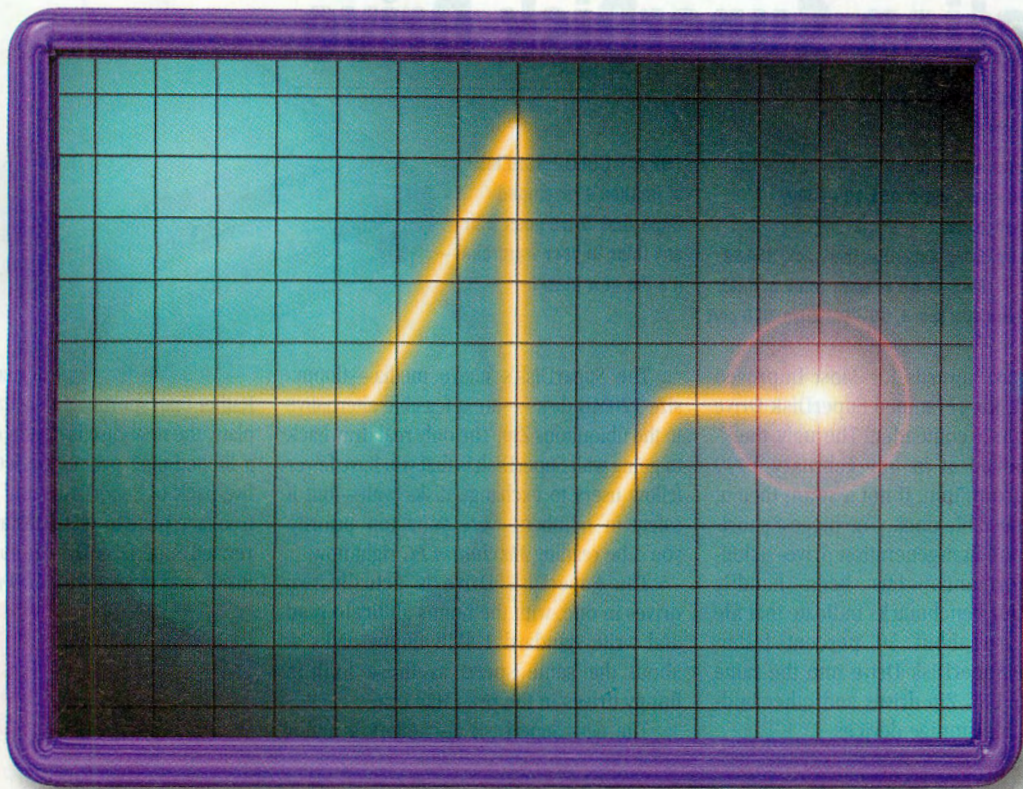
THE PROFORMANCE 3 CONTROL PANEL has a lot of configurable items, but once you've done your settings, you can pretty much go about your business without touching this again.

GOOD NEWS: Fast graphics power. Works at 66MHz in blue-and-white G3's graphics PCI slot. Easy installation. Lots of optimization features. Support for SGI digital flat-panel monitor. Live window dragging, font cache, and zooming.

BAD NEWS: No OpenGL support—yet.



There's only one utility in the world that does more for your Macintosh than TechTool Pro 2...



Introducing TechTool Pro 2.5

MicroMat's disk repair and Macintosh troubleshooting utility just became a whole lot better. Loaded with new features like Trash Cache™, which allows you to resurrect files you've accidentally deleted. Or our new Automated Diagnostic feature that checks your drives at the time intervals you specify, so you're always sure your drives are in top shape. TechTool Pro 2.5 even now supports new technologies like FireWire drives, USB floppy drives, System 8.6, all of the latest Macs and much more. But the real power of TechTool Pro 2.5 isn't in the features

you can see, it's in the features you can't see. Like a multitude of new drive repair routines that can save data that other utilities would simply abandon. An improved recovery system that will find lost files in the darkest caverns of a damaged drive. You'll also find improved performance on key features like disk optimization. But maybe the feature you'll find most interesting about this version is the price: FREE*. If you own any version of TechTool Pro 2, just go to our web site and grab the updater. You'll be glad you did.

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*Version 2.5 is available at no charge to registered TechTool Pro 2 users as an updater application directly from the MicroMat web site. If you do not wish to download the updater or would prefer a new CD, they can be purchased for \$25 plus tax, shipping and handling by calling the phone number above. Please have your serial number ready when calling. Prices subject to change without notice.
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reviews

Imation SuperDisk Drive

HARDWARE

COMPANY: Imation Enterprises

CONTACT: 888-466-3456 or 651-704-4000,

<http://www.imation.com>

PRICE: \$169.99 (SRP); SuperDisk five-pack, \$64.99

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 8.1 or later, 16MB of RAM, 5MB of free hard disk space, CD-ROM drive, USB port

THE ICY COLOR SCHEME

of Imation's revamped SuperDisk Drive goes with any iMac in your wardrobe—it's the new black!



If they gave awards for Most Improved Product, the revamped SuperDisk Drive would be a contender. The ugly duckling we looked at in our February 1999 issue has grown into, if not a swan, then at least a respectable duck. The biggest shortcoming of the first-generation drive—sluggish performance—has been handily resolved. Our benchmarks indicate that file transfers are about 50 percent faster, putting the SuperDisk Drive into the same ballpark as USB Zip drives and other budget removable-storage devices.

The SuperDisk's native media—floppy-size 120MB disks—are a feasible alternative to the ubiquitous Zip. The only real drawback to going with SuperDisk is that you have fewer fellow users to exchange disks with—but if safety in numbers were your top priority, you'd be reading *Maximum PC* right now.

The SuperDisk Drive is actually two drives in one, with the bonus ability to read and write standard 1.4MB floppy disks at about the same speed as those built-in floppy drives in the pre-iMac era.

The new SuperDisk also offers a minor

external improvement.

Rather than sporting an ersatz Bondi Blue face plate, the new case is cast in clear "ice" hues; a limited-time promotion lets you pick up a five-pack of SuperDisks and send away for a free face plate to match your Mac. In all, the revised SuperDisk Drive is a nicer device both inside and out.—Mark Simmons

GOOD NEWS: Faster file transfers. No more quirks or glitches. Floppy compatibility. **BAD NEWS:** A bit noisy. Cumbersome AC adapter.



uDrive

HARDWARE

COMPANY: Newer Technology

CONTACT: 316-943-0222, <http://www.newertech.com>

PRICE: \$99 (street)

REQUIREMENTS: USB port, Mac OS 8.5 recommended

WHAT'S THIS SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE?

Beats us, but you can stack the uDrive atop other oddly shaped Newer peripherals.

Steve Jobs is right, and he's wrong. The venerable floppy disk, with its minuscule capacity and ridiculously slow speeds, should be obsolete. But until we've advanced to that enlightened phase of civilization where people hand you 100MB disks without making you swear a blood oath to return them, there'll still be a role for the disposable floppy. And that's why Steverino was wrong to leave a floppy drive out of the iMac. Stepping into the technological gap, Newer Technology offers its uDrive, a 1.4MB

USB floppy-disk drive housed in the same fin-shaped stackable case as the company's uHub and other future USB peripherals.

As a floppy drive, the uDrive is pretty undistinguished. Its performance is about half that of a conventional floppy drive built into older Macs, and we never really associated them with blazing file-transfer speeds to begin with. And though the bulky clogshaped case, 10 inches long and 5½ inches wide, isn't going to save you a lot of desk space, Newer's engineers get points for enabling the device to draw on the electrical power of the USB bus (an optional AC adapter is included in case you can't find a free socket on a powered USB hub).

The single greatest aggravation is the manual eject button—more specifically, the modal dialog box that comes up every time you drag a floppy disk to the Trash. If you haven't yet mastered the determination to kick the floppy habit, seeing this dialog box over and over again may just do the trick.—Mark Simmons

GOOD NEWS: Can run off USB hub power. Stackable case. **BAD NEWS:** Really big. Not very fast. Aggravating manual eject.



Photographs by Jim Blohm



Press the uDrive's eject button now.

OK

IT'S ONLY HELPFUL THE FIRST TIME, but this dialog box pops up every single time you eject a darned floppy disk. Aiieee!



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reviews

reviews

Poser 4.0

DESIGN & GRAPHICS

COMPANY: MetaCreations

CONTACT: 800-846-0111 or 805-566-6200,

<http://www.metacreations.com>

PRICE: \$399 (SRP); \$129 upgrade

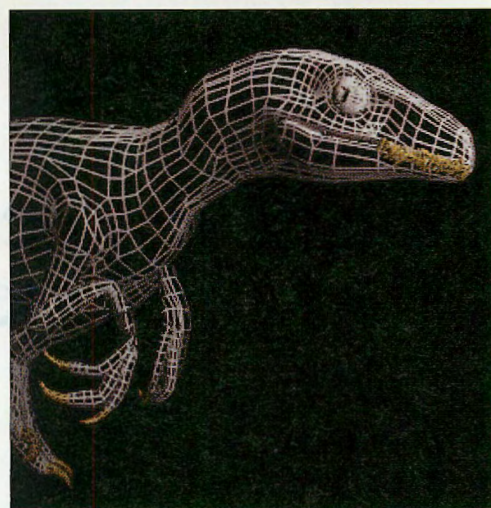
REQUIREMENTS: PowerPC, Mac OS 8 or later, 32MB of RAM, 240MB of free hard drive space, CD-ROM drive

MetaCreations calls itself "The Creative Web Company," and you may wonder what place Poser, a 3D character animation program, has in this company's new focus on the Web. While Poser is perfectly capable of rendering 3D gadgets for the Web, it's also a well-rounded multimedia and animation program for professionals and hobbyists alike. Originally developed as a way for artists to visualize figures and props for flat, 2D digital artwork, Poser 4.0 has morphed into a complete 3D modeling and animation package.

Though you shouldn't expect to sit down with Poser 4.0 and crank out the next *Toy Story* in an evening, it will give you a relatively inexpensive good start. Its animation tools for manipulating models as well as camera and lighting placements have bulked up, allowing more user control and flexibility. Poser also plays nicely



Display Controls Several options are available for display, from wire frames and skeletons to fully rendered models, including depth cueing. You can make alterations to camera angles and lighting positions while viewing the models, using MetaCreations' special rotation and positioning tools.

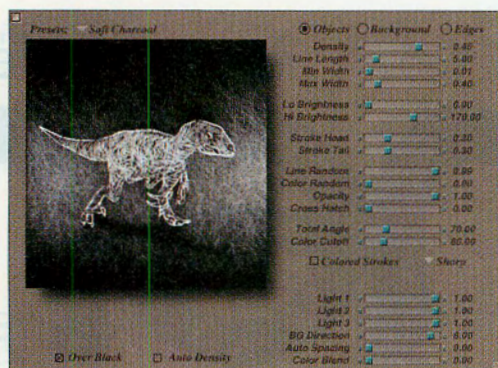


with MetaCreations' current 3D modeling products, such as Canoma (*Reviews*, Sept/99, p52). It sports an impressive array of industry-standard and cross-platform import and export filters. These additions and improvements finally bring Poser into the realm of other high-quality digital animation tools such as the Unix and PC

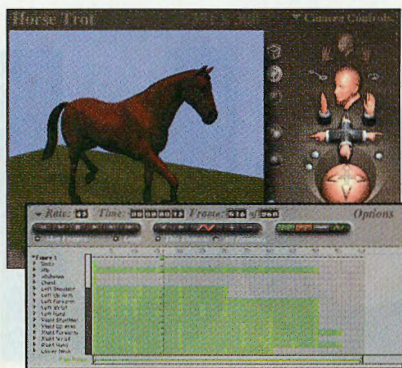
workhorses, Alias Wavefront and 3D Studio Max.

One of the most interesting new features this version introduces is the ability to import motion capture files and apply their

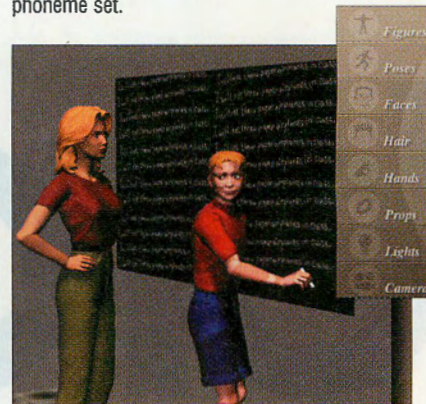
Sketch Designer One of the more interesting and useful tools MetaCreations added to Poser 4.0 is Sketch Designer. Working with Poser's original design as a 2D modeling aid, Sketch Designer allows artists to create several different effects, such as charcoal and colored pencil, to add to the final frame rendering. You can apply similar effects to animations as well as to cartoon-type renderings.



Animation Controls The timeline editor allows precise animation timing and control of single and multiple models. Each element has its own timeline, lights, and cameras, which you can also move and animate. Although the editor doesn't support syncing to video, you can animate to various frame rates, such as 24 fps (film) and 30 fps (video).



Modeling Options Numerous options are now available for various base models in Poser, including animals and robots, as well as more poses, props, and hair types. Included among the better additions are face controls; along with careful animation, these controls can approximate speech using the extensive built-in phoneme set.



Import and Export Filters Poser 4.0 has extensive import and export features.

Background Picture...
QuickTime Footage...
Poser Document/Prop...
Poser 1.0 Library...
Sound...

BVH motion...
3D Studio...
QuickDraw 3DMF...
DXF...
Detailer Text...
Wavefront OBJ...

Image...

RIB...
BVH motion...
Painter Script
3D Studio...
QuickDraw 3DMF...
DXF...
Detailer Text...
Wavefront OBJ...

paths to any Poser model (both of which abound on the second CD) to provide animations that are truer to life. However, creating your own motion capture paths is prohibitively expensive; even most Hollywood special effects shops rely upon outside companies for motion capture services. This leaves the hobbyist and small-time animator at a serious disadvantage, making it difficult to expand the usefulness of this feature in homegrown Poser animations.

A big complaint for serious digital video freaks is the lack of some basic tools to make the generated output usable in other media projects. For compositing Poser animations into video, an alpha channel would be highly useful, but Poser lacks such a feature. To do professional work you must fake a blue or green screen and remove the background in a video and compositing tool such as Adobe After Effects. You can import video from an external file, but the tools for editing and synchronizing animations are a bit confusing. They are also not very well developed, excluding standard tools such as time code sequencing and camera tracking path importation.

One of the few other bummers about Poser is its "unique" interface (and that's putting it kindly), which MetaCreations first developed for similar programs such as Bryce and Kai's Power Tools. It's extremely confusing for beginning users, and even after training and practice, it's hard to get really precise control. With the increased complexity that Poser has inherited, the control palettes and menus reflect a relatively haphazard addition of features. Poser supplies a quick reference card, but it sports an additional column for "hidden" keyboard shortcuts—when combined with the regular ones, these would require close to 40 fingers to use.

Poser 4.0 is not without some real pluses. It has an excellent array of models (humans and animals alike) and comes with templates to apply texture and bump maps easily. The inverse kinematics model used for positioning an animation is above average for an application like this, but could do with some collision detection and better surface deformation models. Another bonus is the ability to substitute props for body parts, which can lead to interesting results, like a pirate hook in place of a hand, or a Guernsey cow's head to produce a docile Minotaur. This serves another purpose by allowing users to import 3D models designed in other programs and use them as props that can interact easily with Poser characters.

Poser 4.0 suffers a bit from feature-itis, having more bells and whistles than the average user may actually need. However, with a bit of time and some planning, you can create some really worthwhile output, usable in various types of projects. If MetaCreations could speed up Poser's rendering engine, making it comparable to Infini-D or Strata Studio, the package would be a complete 3D tool. Until then, it's better to export your Poser 4.0 creations and finish them in a different application. Poser 4.0 is a step in the right direction, and with a bit more work MetaCreations could help the Mac dominate the 3D modeling world again.—David A. Koran

GOOD NEWS: A ton of new features added by user request. Imports and exports just about every type of 3D-model format, including

QuickDraw 3D and MetaCreations' own new MetaStream technology. **BAD NEWS:** Still has a clunky and strange interface. Pricey for what used to be an intro-level program. Rendering engine needs better optimization for the speedy processors.



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reviews

Wired 4DVD

HARDWARE

COMPANY: Wired

CONTACT: 650-969-9300, <http://www.wiredinc.com>

PRICE: \$219 (SRP)

REQUIREMENTS: PCI-based Power Mac,
DVD-ROM drive



Photographs by Jörn Böhm

The ability to play DVD movies on our Macs has long been promised "real soon now," as the saying goes. But like Zeno's paradox, it has never quite arrived. Even Apple had a difficult time shipping DVD in new Macs; as for adding it to an existing Mac—forget it. Now Wired has come along with its Wired 4DVD MPEG-2 decoder card. This card slips into any available PCI slot and enables your Mac to play DVD movies, with the help of a DVD-ROM drive, sold separately for as little as \$150.

Installation is a bit tricky. First you have to open up your Mac and insert the card into an available PCI slot. Then you must connect a pass-through cable from your video-out card into the Wired 4DVD card. Finally, you plug the monitor into the card. The package includes drivers and playback software that works with a wide range of DVD drives. The software mimics a real-world DVD controller, giving you access to all of the content on the discs. In our tests, the card played movies flawlessly in both aspect ratios (TV and letterbox), even at full screen.

The card features video-out and audio-out ports that you can route to a home the-

**THIS IS THE MISSING
LINK FOR DVD on your Mac.**
With it, you can use just about
any DVD-ROM drive.

ater system. However, the audio-out port doesn't yet work. Wired is working on a fix, but for now you have to use your Mac's sound-out port if you want to route that audio to a dedicated stereo system. One other gripe we have is that we pay a premium as Mac users—the Wired 4DVD card runs nearly \$100 more than a typical PC DVD decoder card.

Still, there's the breaks. The Wired 4DVD brings us Mac addicts up to speed with the PC crowd, and it does a nice job. Although installation is a bit tricky and the price is a tad high, the Wired 4DVD is a good solution for those who want to watch movies on their Mac or use their Macs to play DVD movies on their home entertainment system. It may be cheaper to buy a dedicated DVD player for your television, but then you won't have access to DVD-ROM content on your Mac—and you can't watch *Ronin* while downloading files.—David Reynolds



AT THE HEART of your Mac's new DVD movie capabilities is the Wired 4DVD player. This application looks—and works—just like a real-world DVD player, complete with LED and buttons.

GOOD NEWS: Does what it says—plays DVD movies on your Mac. Works with a wide range of drives.

BAD NEWS: Installation a bit confusing. Sound-out port doesn't currently work. A little pricey.





Snapz Pro 2.01

UTILITY

COMPANY: Ambrosia Software

CONTACT: 800-231-1816 or 716-325-1910, <http://www.ambrosiasw.com>

PRICE: \$40 (SRP); \$20 upgrade from 1.x

REQUIREMENTS: Any color-capable Macintosh, System 7.1 or later, 270K of free hard disk space, QuickTime for saving JPEGs, QuickTime 4.0 for TIFF and PNG support, Sound Manager 3.2 or later for capturing audio in QuickTime movies

Have you ever wondered how editors and graphic designers capture hard-to-get screenshots? Of course, you can use the Mac OS's built-in screen capture, but its functionality is limited to desktop screens and a basic Selection tool. Most Mac users have traditionally relied on third-party screen-capture utilities to achieve the picture-perfect screenshot. One of the most widely used and probably the best known of the screen-grabbing tools is Snapz Pro, now in version 2.01, a significant upgrade from version 1.

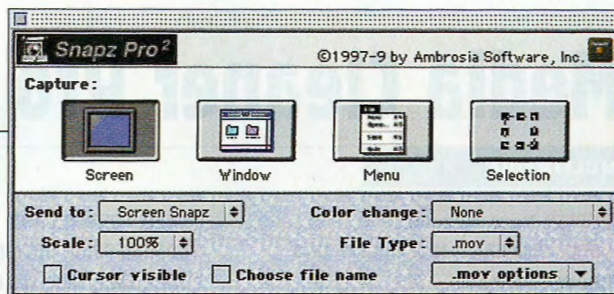
What's different and special about Snapz Pro 2.01 is its expanded capture capabilities. For example, Snapz Pro now enables you to save in TIFF, PNG, and QuickTime (MOV) formats, which you select from the pop-up Snapz palette. In addition, Snapz Pro now features a draggable Selection tool. With the old Snapz, you had to size up your shot carefully with the Selection tool, and once you framed the

picture, you couldn't adjust any boundaries—aligning them was often a case of trial and error. In version 2.01, you can not only resize a selection but also drag it to any spot on the screen, which makes it easy to set up that perfect snap—a highly useful feature. And if you make instructional videos or just want to show something off, you can save what you display on your desktop as a QuickTime movie. This is a big feature worth more than the price of the utility; there's currently no other application available that can do the job.

A few of Snapz Pro 2.01's other tricked-out gizmos include the ability to capture multiple desktop screenshots for as many monitors as your particular Mac supports; and the ability to do consecutive captures, which is fantastic for grabbing those amazing action tricks in games. The program also lets you shrink-wrap images inside a selected area, which is a relief for those of us who can't frame a shot with

pixel precision; and in this version you can capture a window's content without including frames.

Other screen-capture utilities such as ExposurePro, which costs \$119.95, and ScreenShot, a \$49.95 light version of ExposurePro, don't offer the flexibility and features of Snapz Pro. ExposurePro does offer basic drawing and image-editing tools, but they are largely redundant in light of apps like GraphicConverter, PhotoDeluxe, and Photoshop. To put it simply, Snapz Pro 2.01's price is right and it's a snap to use.—*Jennifer Ho*



THE SNAPZ PALETTE looks similar to what version 1 offered, but now you can capture your moves and save them as QuickTime movies.

GOOD NEWS: New support for PNG and TIFF files. Saves in QuickTime format with user-definable parameters such as audio compression and frame rate. Easy to use. Draggable Selection tool. Inexpensive. Good documentation.
BAD NEWS: It should've come out sooner. Doesn't capture from 3dfx cards.



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Media Cleaner Pro 4

MULTIMEDIA

COMPANY: Terran Interactive

CONTACT: 800-577-3443 or 408-356-7373,

<http://www.terran.com>

PRICE: \$499 (SRP); \$489.99 (street)

REQUIREMENTS: PowerPC, Mac OS 8 or later, 16MB of RAM, 5MB of free hard disk space, CD-ROM

MORE FORMATS AND COMPRESSION OPTIONS THAN EVER allow you to mix source media and output compression settings in a single batch.

Media Cleaner has always been the Swiss Army knife of multimedia production, offering unparalleled batch processing, file conversion, and compression options for audio, video, and stills. With Media Cleaner Pro 4.0, Terran Interactive has created what may be the most important compression tool on the market. The work that went into this version of Media Cleaner was mostly behind the scenes in the number of sources and output formats that it can handle, faster compression speed, new audio compression filters, and a handful of other wickets.

Speed is probably one of the most important qualities in a compression utility, and Media Cleaner just keeps getting faster. Using the Sorenson Developer Edition 1 compression codec on a 2-minute file, Media Cleaner Pro 4 was almost 9 percent faster than version 3. Compressing that

same file with the new Sorenson Developer Edition 2 codec was 20 percent faster than before. In fact, there seems to be a 5 to 10 percent improvement in speed regardless of which codec is used. Added up, that can save a lot of time on large projects.

Media Cleaner now supports significantly more formats for video, stills, DV, animation, and audio. The program can read 29 different formats and write 20. New to version 4 is output support for QuickTime 4 Streaming, RealSystem G2, Windows Media (ASF), Video for Windows (AVI), and MP3 audio. Media Cleaner can now also perform lossless format conversions. If you want to turn an AVI or ASF file into a QuickTime movie, Media Cleaner can convert the data without any additional compression. Of course, it can still handle all the formats supported in previous versions, including DV. The one glaring omission is that Media Cleaner still doesn't handle CMYK images.

Audio has traditionally been Media Cleaner's weakest area, but Terran has corrected this by offering a new suite of audio filters and MP3 support. The filters mainly reduce noise in an original audio signal so the compressed signal can be cleaner. New filters include High And Low Pass, Noise Gate, Noise Removal, Notch, Reverb, and a dynamic range compression tool.

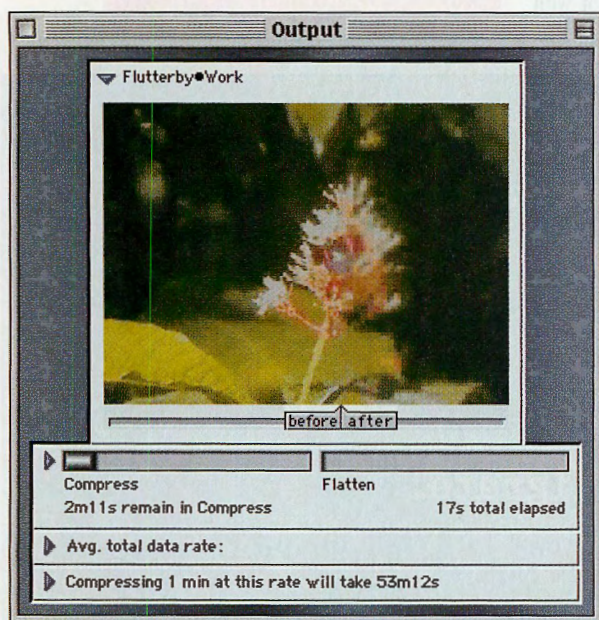
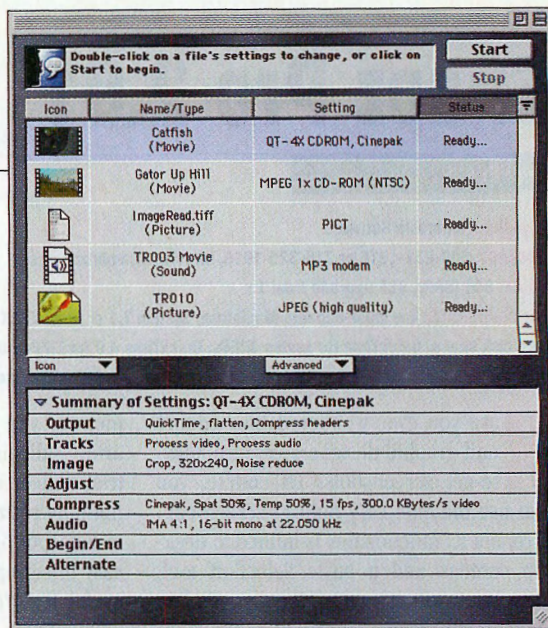
Fans of the MP3 format will definitely want to use Media Cleaner 4 to rip tracks. Terran has included the Fraunhofer IIS MP3 encoder, one of the best encoder technologies ever developed. A 5-minute track,

compressed at 16K per second, in 44KHz stereo, took seven minutes to compress and was indistinguishable from the original CD track. Even complex orchestral pieces maintained incredible fidelity to the originals.

Two new features that will also please heavy users of Media Cleaner are its helper applications and its improved support for AppleScript. Media Cleaner Pro 4 offers a new HelperApp menu. Place applications like a QuickTime Player or an alias to a RealPlayer G2 in the HelperApp folder, and these items appear in the menu. If you need to set new in and out points quickly in a movie, just select the movie in the batch and QuickTime Player from the menu—this opens the file in QuickTime Player for editing. You can also place AppleScripts in the HelperApp folder: This lets you add special actions—for example, you can select a script that will automatically send a completed movie to an FTP server. Media Cleaner is now much more AppleScript friendly, so users can set up watch folders and render farms without much effort.

There are too many small changes in Media Cleaner Pro 4 to list, but collectively, they add up to a very impressive tool for delivering media to CD, DVD, or the Web. There really is no competition for Media Cleaner, and it is well worth the purchase or upgrade price. —Rick Sanchez

GOOD NEWS: MP3 encoding. Support for QuickTime 4 and Real G2 streaming. **BAD NEWS:** Still doesn't support CMYK images.



THE DYNAMIC PREVIEW actually shows you the before and after compression results.

FIND A MEDIA CLEANER PRO 4 Demo on The Disc.



ix3D Dual Monitor

HARDWARE

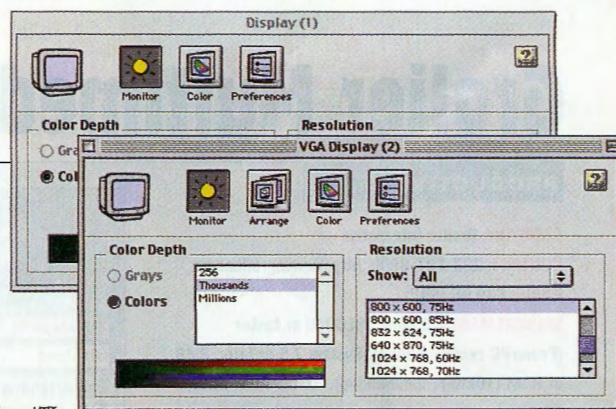
COMPANY: ixMicro

CONTACT: 408-369-8282, <http://www.ixmicro.com>

PRICE: \$349 (SRP)

REQUIREMENTS: PCI-based Power Mac, System 7.6.1 or later, 16MB of RAM

THE IX3D CAN DRIVE TWO MONITORS while eating up only one PCI slot.



The ix3D Dual Monitor card boasts support for two monitors in a single PCI card. With impressive specs and a Twin Turbo 128-3D engine, it might fit the bill if you're short on slots inside that svelte chassis of yours.

A full 12 inches in length (which excludes some Performas), the card sports one VGA port for PC displays and one RGB port for Apple monitors. The card required an optional VGA-to-RGB adapter to get our two VGA Sony Multiscan monitors connected.

Performance is good—in Norton benchmarks, the ix3D comes in at about 80 percent

of the 2D performance of the ATI Rage 128 in a blue-and-white G3. The card shares 8MB of video RAM between the two ports, so there's a limit to the resolution and color depth on each monitor. Although the card's highest resolution is 1600 by 1200 pixels, for two monitors to display millions of colors, they must be set to 800 by 600 or less.

The card features good 3D performance and a 3D RAVE driver, but the trend of games requiring ATI Pro or better could hurt ix3D's compatibility over the long haul. Performance in Unreal, for instance, was a bit choppier at 640 by 480 pixels with no doubling on the

ix3D than with a 16MB Rage 128 card.

Still, the ix3D Dual Monitor card offers good horsepower for the price, especially in older machines with slow built-in video. For a compromise between performance and the ability to run two monitors in a PCI-based Power Mac, the ix3D Dual Monitor card is a great choice.—*Todd Stauffer*

GOOD NEWS: Good performance.

Decent price. Saves a PCI slot.

BAD NEWS: VRAM divided between monitors. No RGB adapter. Large card.



FUN. Bouncing. Colorful. Excitement. Action!

Hurry! Help the defenseless little Krilos keep their world from being enslaved by the alien menace before it is too late!

KRIL

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Check out the demo on the Mac Addict CD, and help the Krilos! Also, visit BlackHoleSun Software's web site at www.blackholesun.com and see the other games that are available for the entire family!



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www.krilo.com



Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia

PRODUCTIVITY

COMPANY: Grolier Interactive

CONTACT: 203-797-3500, <http://www.grolier.com>

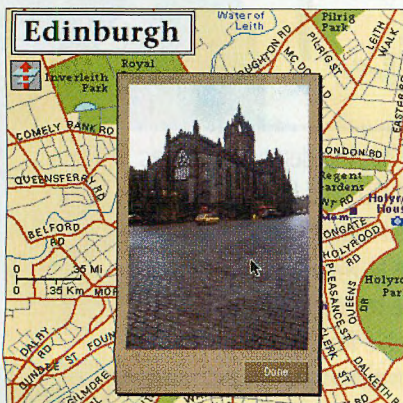
PRICE: \$49.95 (SRP)

REQUIREMENTS: 25MHz 68LC040 or faster (PowerPC recommended), System 7.5 or later, 8MB of RAM (16MB recommended), 2X CD-ROM drive, 56-kbps modem and color printer optional

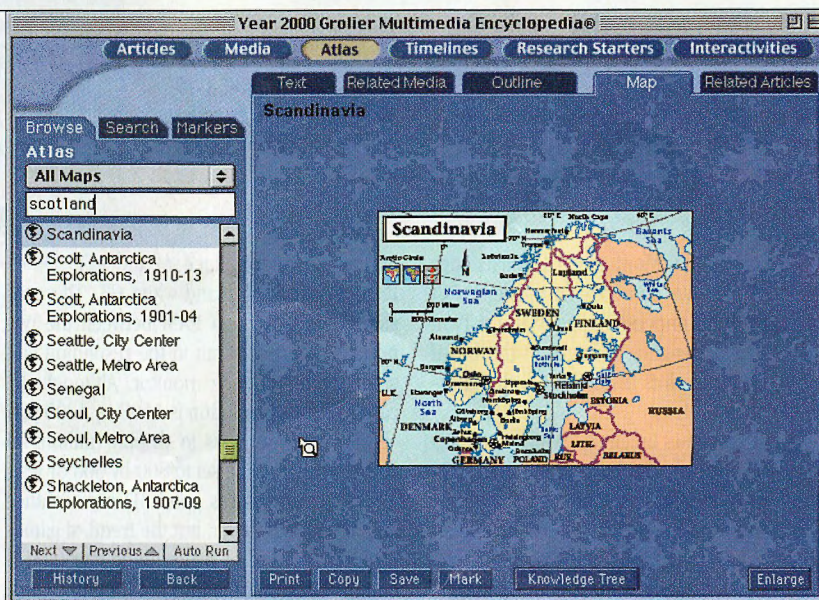
In this age of immediate Internet gratification, the concept of a multimedia encyclopedia on CD might seem almost quaint. You can find most of the information in Grolier's latest edition of its popular reference work—from multiple sources—using an online search engine. What you can't find on the Web, however, is a complete product that educates and entertains quite like this two-disc package.

Although primarily a research tool, the Year 2000 Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia Deluxe Edition strikes a nice balance between entertainment and education. It's easy to become absorbed in clicking link after link, chasing a subject to its core, or hopping onto completely different topics. Movies, sounds, and interactive maps help enrich all but the most obscure subjects. Grolier's combination of encyclopedia, atlas, and Internet gateway makes absolute immersion almost a danger.

The interface works well, but seems unnecessarily diverse. Buttons take you quickly from articles to atlas, or from media to research topics, but there's no central



THE 15,000 ILLUSTRATIONS are usually rich and relevant, but the zoom function often reveals low resolution and horrible JPEG compression.



THE ATLAS FUNCTION LINKS directly to the other articles, and you can find out more about a place with the click of a mouse.

hub—a minor complaint, since everything's very accessible once you get used to it. There's lots to see, too. Grolier claims 59,000 articles (22,000 on the related Web site) and over 15,000 images that look OK at the standard size, but become fuzzy if enlarged. Copyright issues prevent you from pasting into other applications, but you can print everything.

You can update Grolier's Encyclopedia at the click of a mouse, searching for and receiving updates online. This function is rather slow if you're using anything less than a 56-kbps modem. Grolier also includes Web links to expand subjects contained in the CDs.

The package contains nice extras such as a 250,000-word dictionary that's helpful when cross-referencing. Also, *The New York Times Book of Science Questions and Answers* presents plenty of scientific facts and data in a clear and concise format. Grolier's own activities and study guide gives younger users a variety of projects and tests to complete, making for ideal classroom and homework fodder.

Some aspects of the program's navigation are troubling. Occasionally when you click to see a map related to an article, you can't easily return to the article; clicking Back simply zooms out to a world map.

Also, the choice and placement of navigation buttons seems clunky and obscure. Alphabetical keystrokes, however, usually bring up relevant links. Maps also failed to recognize a couple of perfectly regular place names. Entering *Scotland* in the atlas section failed to find that country. Instead the program insists you go to United Kingdom. This may be geopolitically correct, but it's no help when you're looking for a nice, tasty haggis.

Even on older, non-PowerPC machines, the software performs efficiently. The information varies from a rich, dense tapestry of illuminating info to the most fickle of fleeting descriptions—and a lot of the information is at least a year out of date. That said, as a historical and geographical reference tool, it's almost peerless. Year 2000 Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia Deluxe Edition is an excellent piece of software for students, families, or intellectual busybodies of the *Cliff Claven* variety. —Frank O'Connor

GOOD NEWS: Great presentation.

Fabulous info. Nice interaction

between various functions. Runs

smartly on cranky old machines. Gets on

well with Internet. BAD [redacted] and clunky

navigation interface. Occasional timeliness-related

inaccuracies. Slightly buggy atlas functions.



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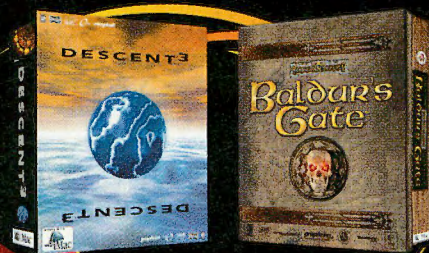
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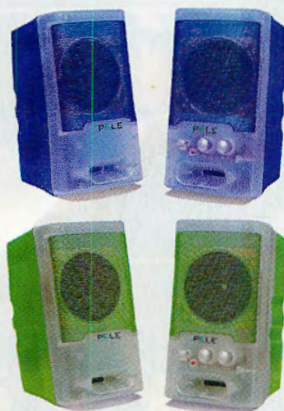
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reviews

Starcraft: Brood War

FUN & GAMES

COMPANY: Blizzard Entertainment

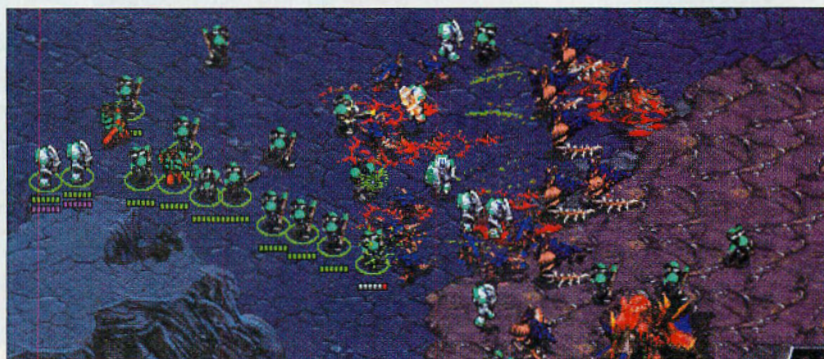
CONTACT: 800-953-7669 or 949-955-1382, <http://www.blizzard.com>

PRICE: \$49.99 (SRP)

REQUIREMENTS: PowerPC, System 7.6 or later, 16MB of RAM (32MB for multiplayer), 80MB of free hard disk space, 2X CD-ROM (4X for movies), 256 colors at 640 by 480 pixels

Brood War, an expansion set for Blizzard's hit real-time strategy game Starcraft, has finally arrived, and Mac gamers are sure to go berserk over its new army units and terrain types.

plus over 100 cool new multiplayer levels, providing hours of bloody—oh, so bloody—gameplay. Also, each week you can download new levels from Battle.net, Blizzard's free site for multiplayer gaming.



REMINDE YOU OF STARSHIP TROOPERS? Well, you do get to shoot a bunch of nasty bugs. Or you can choose to be Zerg and smash the humans. Great fun either way!

To play Brood War, you must already own Starcraft. As in the original, the objective is to build structures and command your army to victory, either in single-player mode or against up to seven other opponents on a LAN or over the Internet. Brood War adds two new unit types (more would have been appreciated) to the three different species—Terrans, Zerg, and Protoss—each with its own unique technologies, attributes, and abilities. There are entirely new campaigns for each race that pick up where the original Starcraft story left off.

ARE THESE THE remains of Luke Skywalker's old home on Tatooine? No, it's just a buried bunker on one of the cool new terrain types. I guess the Zerg bugs were looking for droids.

The Scenario Editor allows you to create your own campaigns with objectives that players must achieve to be victorious, such as protecting a certain character unit and bringing him to a particular location.

Although the number of new units is limited, there are more than enough new campaigns, multiplayer levels, and battlefields to make Brood War truly a must-have for all hard-core Starcraft gamers.

—Peter Anderson

GOOD NEWS: New units and scenarios. Awesome multiplayer options. Scenario Editor.

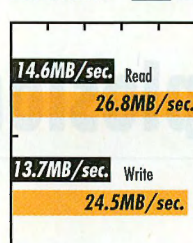
BAD NEWS: Requires original Starcraft. Not enough new units. Difficult campaigns.



Think Performance.

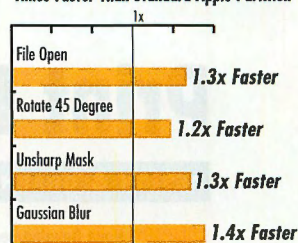
Improve the performance of even the fastest G3 with Hard Disk ToolKit 3.0. Turn multiple drives into blazing fast disk arrays with RAID support. Create scratch partitions that supercharge applications such as Adobe® Photoshop® and Premiere®.

Disk Array Performance†



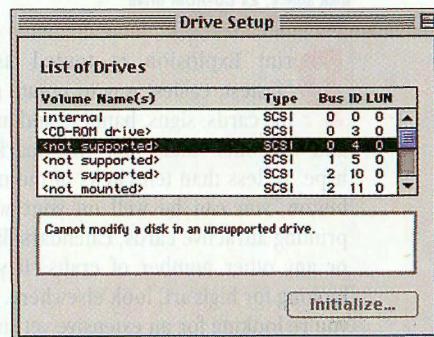
Photoshop Performance*

Times Faster Than Standard Apple Partition



Think Versatility.

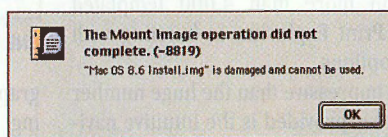
The simple drive utility that came with your Mac is designed to support only the hard drive that came installed with your Mac. Hard Disk ToolKit is hand-tuned to maximize the performance of over 1,000 storage devices, including the one in your Mac. We also offer data encryption, password protection, device cloning, and the ability to optimize specific drive parameters.



Apple Drive Setup

Think Reliability.

Using the Apple driver on third party drives may lead to data loss. Hard Disk ToolKit offers superior reliability. It even tests all your drives at start-up and warns you of imminent disk failure.



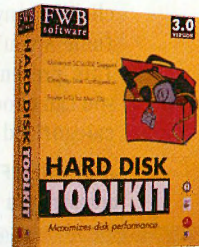
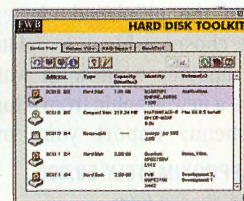
A problem you may experience when using the Apple driver on third-party drives.



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Micro Center
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www.microcenter.com

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* Photoshop Test Parameters: 54 MB CMYK Photoshop File, Power Macintosh 300 MHz Blue and White G3, Mac OS 8.5.1, Apple 6 GB hard drive filled to 75% capacity, 64MB RAM, 32MB allocated to Photoshop 5.0.

† Disk Array Test Parameters: Power Macintosh 300 MHz Blue and White G3 with single SCSI drive vs. two-drive disk array. Benchmarked with MacBench® 5.0's Sequential Read/Write Disk Test of 1024K file size.



Print Explosion 1.0

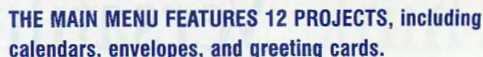
DESIGN & GRAPHICS

COMPANY: Nova Development

CONTACT: 800-395-6682 or 818-591-9600, <http://www.novadevelopment.com>

PRICE: \$49.95 (SRP)

REQUIREMENTS: PowerPC, System 7.5.5 or later, 16MB of RAM, 200MB of free hard disk space. 2X CD-ROM drive



Print Explosion is touted as the “fastest, easiest way to create greeting cards, signs, banners and more,” and for once that’s not just marketing hype. In less than ten clicks of the mouse button, you can be well on your way to printing attractive cards, calendars, labels, or any other number of crafts. If you’re looking for high art, look elsewhere, but if you’re looking for an extensive yet simple-to-use publishing suite, Print Explosion is it. With 50,000 graphics (many of which are cheesy cartoonish drawings), 500 fonts, and more than 4,000 templated designs, Print Explosion is bursting with creative options.

More impressive than the huge number of resources provided is the intuitive navigation. The main menu features a dozen icons representing the different types of products you can make, from envelopes to business cards to fax cover sheets to greeting cards. Click any one of these for a list of template options—anything from a Christmas winter scene to a birthday card cat. Once you pick a template, you can tinker with any part of it by simply double-clicking any of the preplaced elements (unless you've chosen a blank template). This presents another window in which you can choose a new graphic from a long, categorized menu; import your own

**JUST ONE OF APPROXIMATELY 50,000
graphics you can choose from.**



Happy Birthday!

103

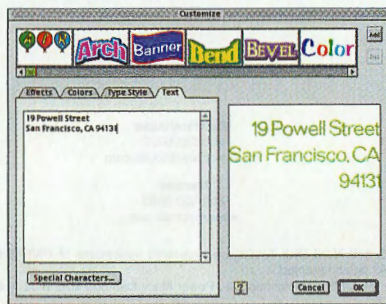
From:

ONE OF THE TOO-CUTE-FOR-WORDS templates you'll find in Print Explosion.

graphic; or alter the text by either changing what it says or picking new fonts, effects, and colors. You can also insert new graphics and text boxes, as well as shapes, via one of two floating palettes (the other one is for color).

If at any time you run into problems, you can consult the massive manual that comes with the product. Not only is the manual written so that a first grader could comprehend it, it also contains pictures of every single graphic included with the program so that you can locate the one you want to use by flipping through pages rather than clicking through a long onscreen list.

DOUBLE-CLICKING TEXT IN A TEMPLATE
presents this window, which allows you to edit the text.



Also useful are the clear printing instructions. For instance, the program tells you when you need to turn the paper over to print the inside of a greeting card. And unlike other consumer applications, Print Explosion includes full support for EPS graphics, even for printers that don't support PostScript.

Unfortunately, such a graphics-heavy program means taxing system requirements, including the need for almost 200MB of free disk space—and that's with only 7,000 of the graphics installed on the hard drive (you must access the rest from the CD). Also, on a poky Power Mac 7200/120, the program took 20 minutes to install.

If you've decided this is the year you're going to get crafty with your holiday cards, then take a close look at Print Explosion. It's easy to use, a great value, and it'll have you sending out cards faster than you can sign your name.—*Cathy Lu*

GOOD NEWS: Easy to use.

Thousands of graphical elements to choose from. A good value.

BAD NEWS: Graphics aren't exactly Monet-quality. Hogs a lot of hard drive space. Takes a while to install.





Sci-Fi Pinball

FUN & GAMES

COMPANY: Fox Interactive

CONTACT: 888-223-2369 or 970-522-5369, <http://www.foxinteractive.com>

PRICE: \$29.95 (SRP)

REQUIREMENTS: PowerPC 603e or faster, System 7.5 or later, 16MB of RAM, 100MB of free hard disk space, 4X CD-ROM drive, 800 by 600 resolution

MOVIE CLIPS THAT PLAY on the scoreboard when your score merits it are hard to see due to a mesh overlay.



What do Sarah Michelle Gellar and Jeff Goldblum have in common? They both make appearances on your Mac's screen as you play Fox Interactive's new Sci-Fi Pinball based on four hot science fiction properties—*Aliens*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Predator*, and *The Fly*—each with its own challenging table consisting of bumpers, ramps, and traps.

The tables themselves take up only half the screen, with the other half devoted to the presentation of the scoreboard and more than 100 movie clips that appear as a reward for good gameplay. The clips are hard to see,

due to a screen mesh that keeps the pictures dark, and they tend to get a bit repetitive, but they're mildly interesting if you're a science fiction film fan. You're also treated to odd little sound bites from the movies, though the running commentary doesn't always correspond to what's happening in the game. "I think it's time for champagne," blurts Goldblum out of the blue, for example. Unless your score is pretty high, you'll wonder what Jeff's celebrating. All four tables play well, but the *Predator* and *The Fly* tables work best. Secret: when you score 10 million bonus points, there's a bonus table based

upon the classic version of *The Fly* starring David Hedison.

Okay, so Sci-Fi Pinball is basically a straightforward pinball game with multimedia window dressing. But it's four decent pinball games for one low price, and the sci-fi elements are a nice addition.—*John Lee*

GOOD NEWS: Colorful, attractive tables. Multiplayer mode. Three skill levels. Configurable controls.

Plays smoothly. Hybrid CD also runs on

Windows. **BAD NEWS:** Film clips and sound bites are essentially window dressing.




See different.
(Much better, that is.)



Presenting 3M's new Anti-Glare/Anti-Radiation Filters for translucent Macs

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TechTool Pro 2.5.1

UTILITY

COMPANY: Micromat Computer Systems

CONTACT: 800-829-6227 or 707-566-3831, <http://www.micromat.com>

PRICE: \$150 (SRP); \$100 (street)

REQUIREMENTS: Macintosh II or faster, System 7 or later, 5MB of RAM, CD-ROM or DVD drive

There is one certainty when it comes to computers: Things *will* go wrong, no matter how careful you are. Most of the time, simple software problems are to blame. But for more complex problems you have to call in the big guns. Micromat has released the newest version of its own big gun, TechTool Pro 2.5.1, a notable upgrade from previous versions. It is available as a full retail package or as a free downloadable update for owners of version 2.0 or greater. TechTool Pro is a hardware diagnostic utility as well as a full-featured disk repair and optimization tool. In short, it does what Norton Disk Doctor and Speed Disk do, and then some!

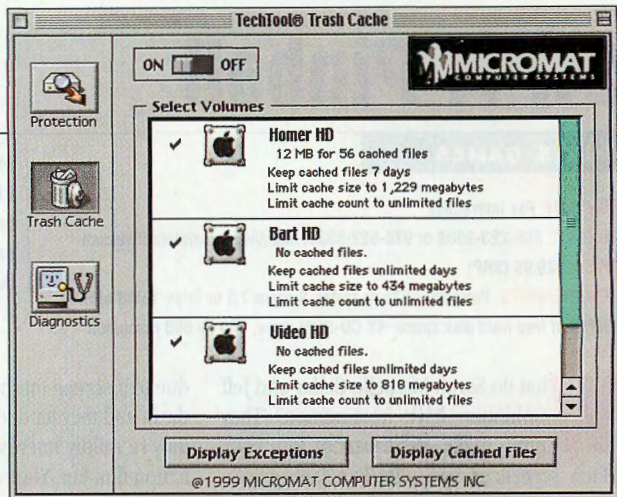
TechTool Pro ships on a bootable CD that works on anything from a Macintosh II up to the current crop of iMacs and blue-and-white Power Mac G3 towers. This version of TechTool Pro claims full compatibility with Mac OS 8.6 and HFS+ volume formatting.

TechTool installs easily and adds only a few items to your computer: a control panel, an extension, and the application in its own folder. The TechTool Pro application has three interfaces: simple, standard, and expert. It defaults to the simple interface, which gives only one option: examine. Though we appreciate simplicity, it would be nice if the default interface had a little more to it. It seems as if the really good stuff

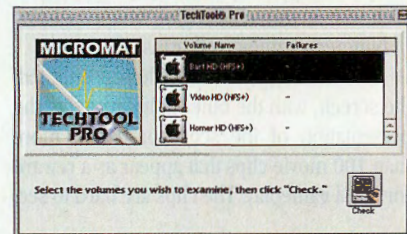
is hidden behind the expert interface—not to mention that the standard interface seems downright unnecessary. The expert interface is where you do all the real diagnostics. We love the never-ending tests you can run. You can check your RAM, mouse, and processor, as well as rebuild the desktop! Checking every nook and cranny of your Macintosh is a geek's dream.

The most important feature of TechTool Pro is how it handles disk errors. It is able to find and repair many more disk errors than Apple's free utility Disk First Aid. TechTool Pro also has a tool for optimizing or defragmenting your hard disk. This theoretically allows your computer to run faster and more efficiently since the tool groups all the related files together. The new optimization tool is fast—it optimizes the drive in about half the time it takes Norton Speed Disk.

TechTool Pro's newest feature, Trash Cache, helps protect your data in case you ever have a disk problem. With Trash Cache you can recover items from the Trash. Need that shareware installer you deleted last week? No problem—you can now get it back. This is no doubt a great new feature, but it is also a potential security risk. Sometimes trashed files are trashed for a reason. You do have the



SIMILAR TO NORTON'S UNERASE, Trash Cache means never having to worry about accidentally throwing away that important document!



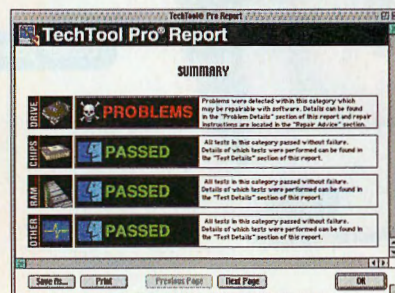
TECHTOOL PRO'S SIMPLE INTERFACE offers little in the way of options.

option of excluding files with certain names or files created by specific applications. In our opinion, this limits the usefulness of the feature. A better solution would have been to simply password-protect the ability to recover trashed files.

TechTool Pro is a world-class utility with lots to offer Mac addicts. It is on par with the venerable Norton Utilities. Norton may offer more options, but TechTool Pro edges it out by being more current and offering users a more direct interface. It's time to "Think Different" about Mac utility software. If you already own Norton Utilities, there is no need to run out and purchase TechTool Pro, but if you don't have a utility already, it's a strong contender. It comes down to one simple fact: TechTool Pro works, it really works.—*Buz Zoller*



THE EXPERT INTERFACE OFFERS enough options to whet any Mac addict's diagnostic appetite.



THE SKULL AND CROSSBONES...can't be good.

GOOD NEWS: Supports USB floppy drives and FireWire drives. Handles HFS+ volumes. Compatible with Mac OS 8.6. Disk optimization is fast. Free update for TechTool Pro 2.x.

BAD NEWS: No diagnostics for USB or FireWire buses. Some possible incompatibilities with new Trash Cache feature.



reviews

DiskLock 4.5.1

UTILITY

COMPANY: Power On Software

CONTACT: 800-344-9160 or 612-317-0344,

<http://www.poweronsoftware.com>

PRICE: \$79.95 (SRP)

REQUIREMENTS: System 6.0.7 or later, 4MB of RAM, 5MB of free hard disk space, 2X CD-ROM drive, SCSI or IDE (must use Apple drivers) hard disk drive

Do snoopy coworkers, unruly kids, or potential thieves have access to your Mac? If so, you should get DiskLock—and quick.

DiskLock is a simple application that can restrict access to hard disks (whether SCSI or IDE, formatted with HFS or HFS+), lock folders, or encrypt individual files or entire folders. Locking restricts the ability of the Mac OS to access a folder and its contents. Encryption, on the other hand, actually rewrites files in code, rendering them meaningless without the password for decrypting.

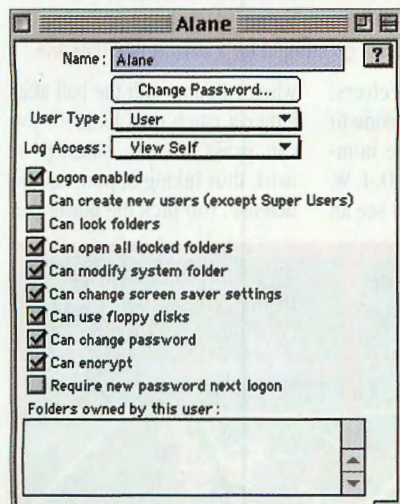
As the “super user,” you control everything and assign the level of access other users enjoy (though you can’t decrypt the files of others). A temp worker may have the ability to drop files into a locked folder but not see what’s inside, for example, whereas a supervisor can delete files in locked folders, alter the System Folder, use floppies,



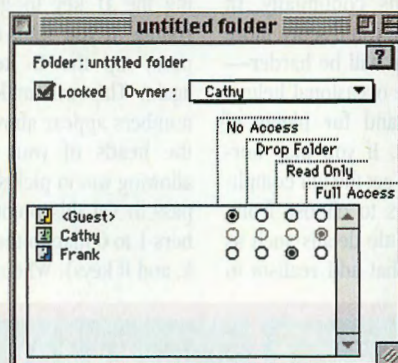
DISKLOCK'S SIMPLE INTERFACE gives the “super user” the ability to control all aspects of the program.

change passwords, and encrypt documents. DiskLock tracks users by requesting a name and password upon startup and after periods of inactivity if you employ the optional screen saver. A log accessible to you alone records the incident if someone attempts to access material they’re not supposed to see.

All this security adds a little complexity and requires time to enter passwords and decrypt files, but that’s a small price to pay for privacy and peace of mind.—*Cathy Lu*



USERS CAN HAVE DIFFERENT PRIVILEGES, including the ability to encrypt files, toggle the screen saver, tinker with the System Folder, save stuff to floppies, etc.



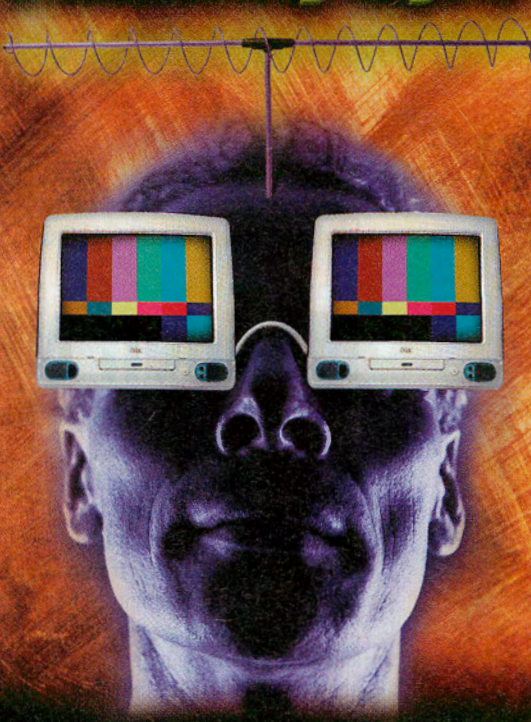
GIVE THE GREEN LIGHT for some users to read files contained in locked folders, and restrict others to only dropping files into protected folders.

GOOD NEWS: Easy to use and install. Different levels of security available. Ability to swap users without restarting computer.

BAD NEWS: Adds time and complexity to file access. Lose your password and you’re toast.



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Labs
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power play

power play

Pummel your opponent with a 400-pound lineman or a little lego man!

Madden NFL 2000

A MacAddict exclusive first look!



FIND LEGGO MY MYTH on The Disc.

We just got our hands on the very first playable build of Aspyr Media and Electronic Arts' upcoming Madden NFL 2000 football game for the Mac, and there's no doubt it's going to blow away last year's offering. This year's version sports all-new motion captures, wrap and gang tackles, detailed player art, and realistic gameplay, whereas last year's version didn't exist!

well...they aren't generally made for the Mac. Even those of you who have played a Madden game in the past probably did so on a console such as the Sony PlayStation (unless you're some kind of dual-playing Mac-PC hybrid mutant freak), and there are some differences. So (for those of you sans flippers) a few of the basics are probably in order.

In Madden 2000, you can choose from two styles of play—arcade or normal. In the arcade-style game, you pick two teams to play, assign yourself a team, and start the game—no coin tosses, no end zone picking, you just start. In this mode you have a limited number of plays to choose from, but the action pumps continually. In Arcade mode, you'll score more often and hits will be harder—watch for the occasional helmet to pop off and for plenty of interceptions. If you play normal play, you get the full complement of plays to choose from, and all the little details such as coin tosses that add realism to



gameplay will be there.

In either of these modes, the game boils down to choosing a play by scrolling through options while huddled before each down. As soon as both sides choose a play, the teams get into position and the action is ready to begin. On offense, you control the quarterback, so you hike the ball by pressing the D key to get rolling. If you want to pass, tap the D key again. This will make numbers appear above

open receiver, press the corresponding key to throw to that player. The catches are automatic (as are the interceptions), and



USE THE ALL-NEW SITUATION EDITOR to skip those boring middle parts of a game and go straight for a narrow overtime win.

the heads of your receivers, allowing you to pick someone to pass to (at this point the numbers 1 to 6 map to the S, D, E, W, E, and R keys). When you see an

when running with the ball after either a catch or a handoff, you can press keys to sidestep or twirl, thus juking opponents. On defense, you pick the player you



STEVE YOUNG GETS pummeled by a 400-pound lineman. We get to see it again and again, thanks to the instant replay feature.

Probably more than a few of you out there aren't too familiar with the current state of football video games, because—



It's not wise to pass right into a pack of Niners.



It looks like the lowly Brown might get it.



Nice move, butterfingers! That bounced right off his hands!



Picked off!

feel you can make a difference with and try to tackle whichever player has the ball. It's an intuitive and fun process, refined by years of development for other platforms. To make things even easier, last year Madden introduced a one-button mode, which lets you hike the ball and pass to the most open player with a single button press.

Playing Madden on a computer really dwarfs playing it on a PlayStation. The sharp resolution of a monitor coupled with the pixel power of today's video cards make the detail crisper and the images sharper; everything generally looks a whole lot better than it does on your TV. An even bigger bonus than the graphics, though, is the ability to jump on the Internet and match up against complete strangers day or night. The only real downside to using a Mac instead of a PlayStation is that you don't have all the controls configured together in a well-designed gamepad. On the Mac, you have to fuss around with clunky keyboard commands and arrow keys, which takes a lot of getting used to. Aspyr has assured us, however, that when released, Madden NFL 2000 will support all major serial and USB gamepads, so this pitfall will be

easily overcome. You'll definitely want to use a gamepad if you plan to get seriously into this game.

The 2000 version improves on older PC and console Maddens by adding lots of realistic details. For instance, linebackers are big, fat guys, while quarterbacks are skinny, taller guys. Another nice touch is the addition of nets for field goal and extra point kicks.

One all-new feature is the scenario builder, where you can arrange a tense situation for yourself. For example, you can put yourself up on the 20-yard line with 30 seconds left of a tied game and see if you can score a touchdown. You can also build custom teams and players with improved editors.

The early version we got from Aspyr was not finished, so it would be unfair to critique the actual play too heavily (though it was pretty dang fun anyway), but we're not too worried. Madden is a 10-year-running football game series, and it's recognized as one of the great game franchises on any platform. We predict blockbuster sales and many, many wasted hours starting the day Madden hits the shelves, sometime around mid-October. —RC

Age of Empires Cheats

For those of you engrossed in Age of Empires, we've compiled a list of cheats (thanks to MacSoft) to help you through the tough times of building an empire. To use the cheats, press the Return key, enter the cheat code in the chat dialog box that pops up, and then press Return again. Here are our top ten picks:

DIEDIEDIE—All opponents die (single-player games only).

KILL.#—Kills an individual player. To kill a specific player, substitute an actual number, such as 3, for the symbol (single-player games only).

BLACK RIDER—Makes all horse archers Black Riders that turn into heavy catapults when they die.

COINAGE—Gives you 1,000 units of gold.

DARK RAIN—Makes archers look like trees when still.

JACK BE NIMBLE—Makes catapults fire peasants.

PEPPERONI PIZZA—Gives you 1,000 units of food.

QUARRY—Gives you 1,000 units of stone.

STERIODS—Builds units, buildings, and research instantaneously.

WOODSTOCK—Gives you 1,000 units of wood.

Plastic Fantastic

Leggo My Myth

Makeover combines two cool toys



Taking advantage of Myth II's ability to use custom-made maps, John Whitney (a member of the Men of Rohan clan) created a Myth conversion with a sense of humor: it pits Lego-like characters against each other in grueling 3D combat.

There's something satisfying about watching your plastic men go at each other with swords, fire, and explosives—our toys almost never did this.

The conversion features eight new characters (Footman, Cavalry, Airship, Wizard, Dragon, Crossbowman, Duck, and Cannon), each with new abilities (for example, the Airship has two kinds of bombs and air-to-air missiles, while the Crossbowman can do a nifty little jig).

Whitney gets bonus points for creating an amazing Lego-like landscape in which you position your plastic gladiators. It comes complete with authentic toy buildings and trees that will take you back to your first set of plastic interlocking building blocks. He's also generated some great Easter eggs—especially the taunts—in the form of various character animations. When you finish a game, watch the characters celebrate for additional surprises. (When the archer waves his hat, for example, you get to see the little nubbin on the top of his head.)

If you own Myth II, you can get the Leggo My Myth conversion from this month's CD, or if you're into long downloads, you can download the 3.2MB file from sites such as <http://www.myther.com>. Or visit the Men of Rohan order page to get more information—it's at <http://www.fantasypg.com/mor/mainhome.html>.

Leggo My Myth has one final bonus: You won't step on any pieces in the middle of the night. —DR



I LOVE THE SMELL of scorched plastic in the morning. Dragons, Crossbowmen, and Footmen clash on the Leggo My Myth field, described by its creator as Lego merged with Bungie.

Give Us Your Screen Shots

Remember that brilliant battle in Myth where you took out a squad of footmen with a single wight, or that spectacular Carmageddon sideswipe of a pedestrian against a wall? If you have a screen shot of those events or of any particularly brilliant gaming moment, we'd like to talk to you. We're looking for the best and baddest screen shots of games ever, and we're willing to publish them. Ain't we sweet? Send your shots to letters@macaddict.com, and we'll do our part. Now go do yours!



how to

How to make mud, and other disgusting suggestions.

Get Textural with the Add Noise Filter

by David Reynolds



TRICKY

There are lots of ways to get textures to use for Web page backgrounds or wrap around 3D objects—turn to a dedicated texture rendering program, high-end filters, or even download photorealistic textures from the Web. Another option for creating quick—and fairly realistic—textures is Photoshop. The basic Photoshop package has all of the tools you need to make great textures, including Add Noise, Motion Blur, and Hue/Saturation. With the right combination of tools, you can make camouflage, honed metal, wood grain, a backyard pool, and even stars. We'll show you how to create four textures with the filters that ship with Photoshop, and you'll be able to do each in just a few minutes.



TOUGH
This stuff's for the pros.



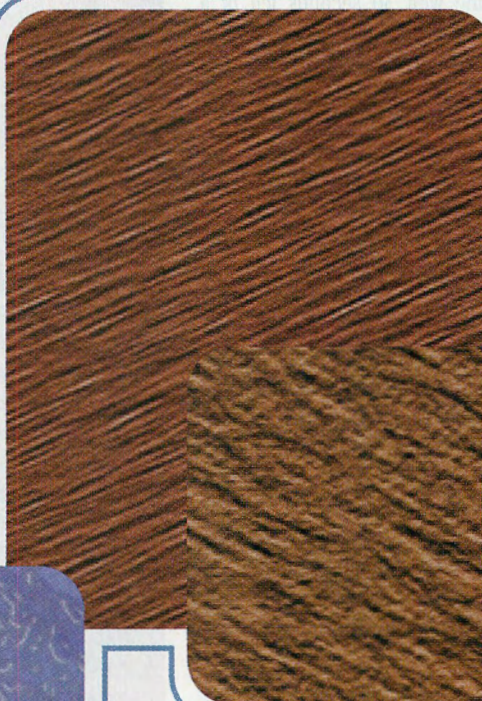
TRICKY
It'll take some effort, but you can do it.



EASY
The fundamentals, if you will.



FIND A TRYOUT
of Photoshop
5.0 on The
Disc.



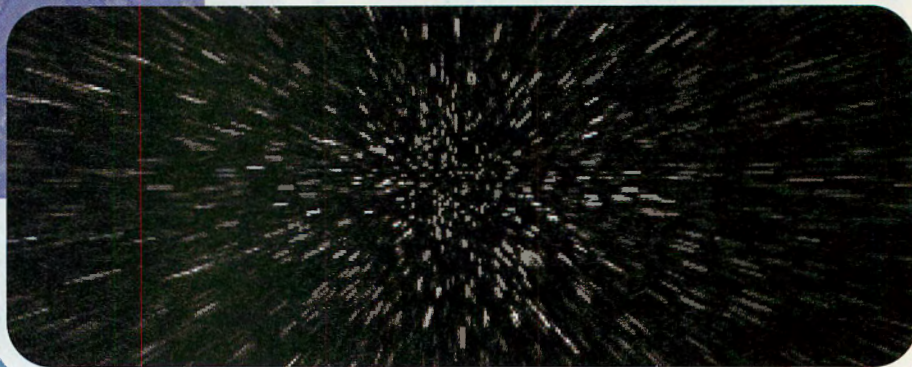
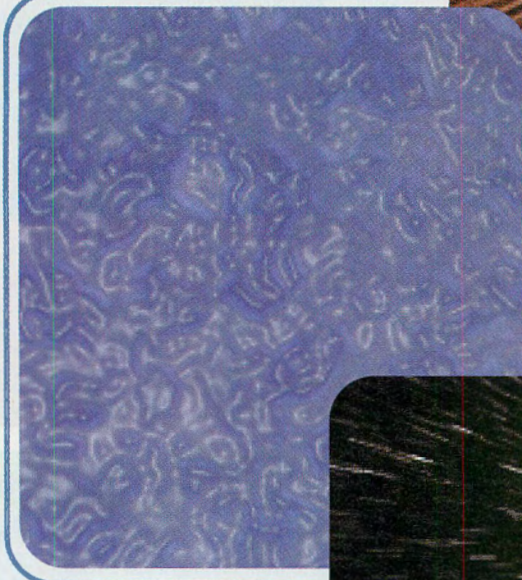
ALTHOUGH IT ISN'T a freshly stained piece of oak, it looks quite a bit like a clean wood surface, complete with grain.

AFTER CREATING THIS slab of dried mud, you, too, will be longing for a cool, clear glass of water.



SPEAKING OF WATER, we'll show you how to make a texture that resembles the surface of a swimming pool.

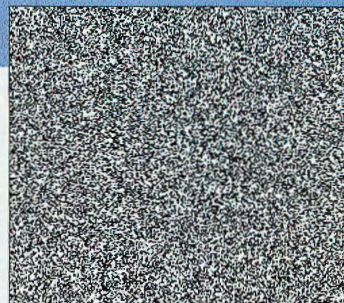
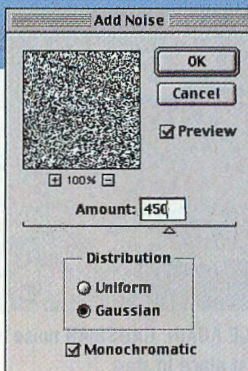
AND FINALLY, WHEN you can't think of anyplace on Earth you'd rather be, we'll take you out into the galaxy with our hyperspace texture.



Texture 1—Wood Grain

1 Bring In the Noise

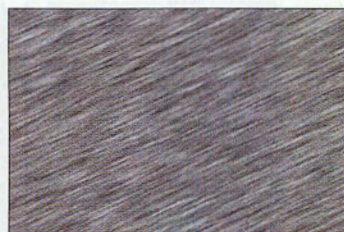
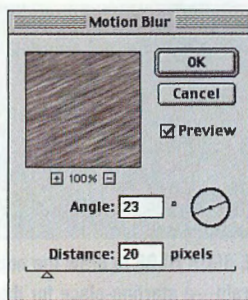
Starting with a canvas bigger than your final needs, apply the Add Noise filter with the following settings: Amount, around 450; Distribution, Gaussian (which makes for a more natural grain); and Monochromatic (we'll be tinting it later). Click OK.



WE'LL START WITH NOISE, and from it create order.

2 Points into Lines

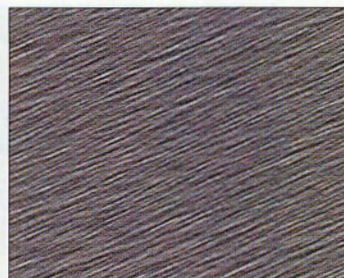
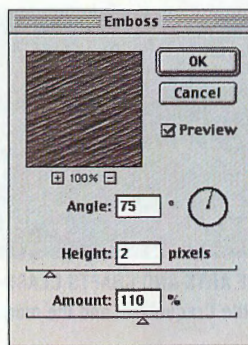
Apply the Motion Blur filter from the Blur menu. Set Distance to 20 (if you play with this, you can get different grain effects—as short as 15 pixels for open-grained wood such as oak, or as long as 700 pixels for a nice brushed-metal effect). We also applied an angle of 23 degrees for a jaunty, rakish look.



DRAW THE NOISE INTO short lines with the Motion Blur filter.

3 Raise the Grain

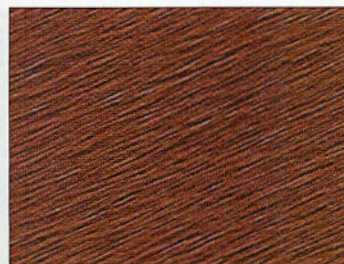
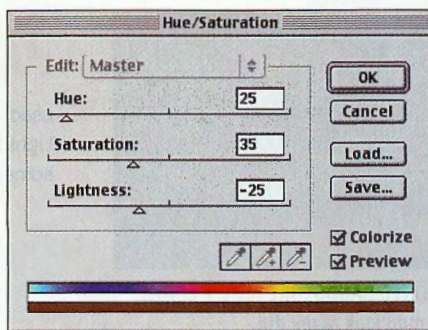
It's starting to look like black-and-white wood, but it's not done yet. Raise the grain of the wood a bit, using the Emboss tool. Here, the settings really change the character of the grain. Play with all three for the desired look. We chose: Angle, 75; Height, 2; and Amount, 110.



EMBOSSING THE LINES raises them into a simulated grain.

4 Stain the Wood

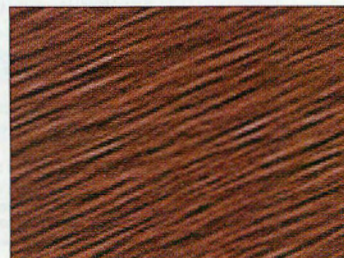
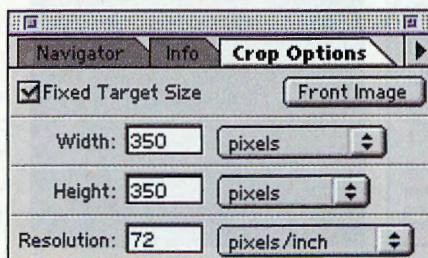
Using the Hue/Saturation controls (under the Adjust submenu of the Image menu), tint the image to match the wood grain. Check Colorize, and then start looking for a color that resembles what you're after. We chose settings of: Hue, 25; Saturation, 35; and Lightness, -25. Try different settings to simulate different kinds of wood.



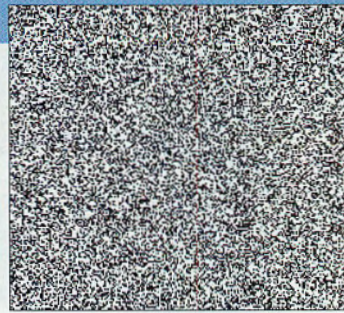
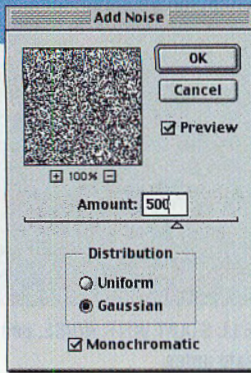
ANY GOOD WOODWORKER will really search for just the right stain hue.

5 Trim the Plank

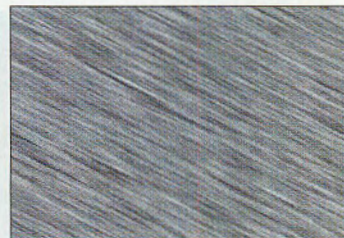
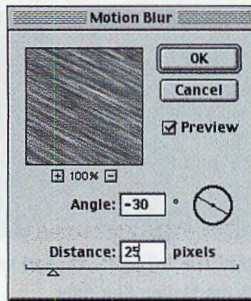
We're almost done. Now, crop the image down to its finished size. If you look at the edges of the image, you'll notice a small border where the effects don't completely blend. Crop that out with the crop tool. By fixing the crop size at the final image size (in the Crop Options palette—we set ours for 350 by 350 pixels), you can get rid of the artifacts around the edges. Go ahead and save your wood grain background in the format you need.



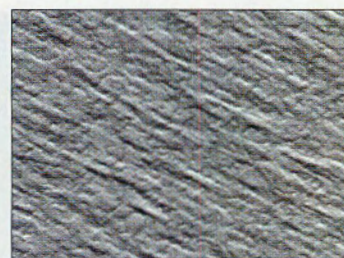
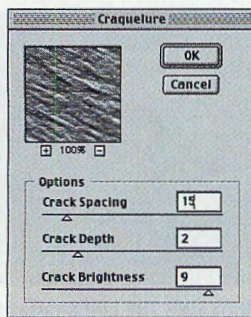
BECAUSE OUR IMAGE doesn't reach all the way to the edges of the canvas, we have to trim things a bit.



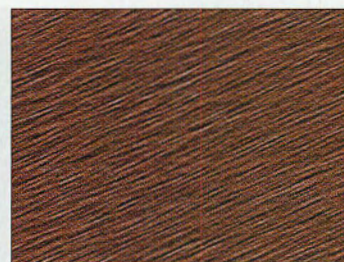
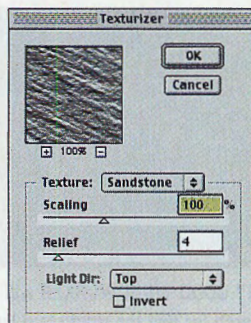
ONCE AGAIN, GAUSSIAN noise is a great place to start.



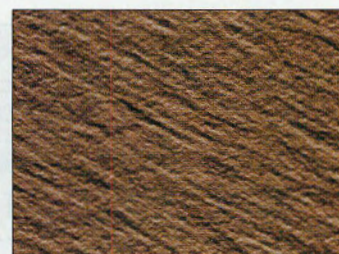
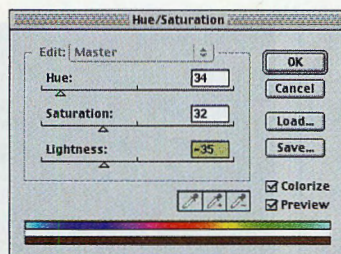
USE BLUR HERE to draw the noise into a grain—a starting-place for the mud.



LIKE ARTS AND CRAFTS CLASS—a little Craquelure, and the mud dries.



A LITTLE SANDSTONE texture makes the mud look *really* dry.



A LITTLE HUE makes for a lot of great muddy color.

Texture 2—Dry, Cracked Mud

1 Start with the Noise

Use noise as the foundation for your mud—it adds a random, natural sort of background. Select Add Noise from the Noise menu and add a thick Gaussian noise. Start as you did with the wood grain, but with slightly more noise: Amount, 500; Distribution, Gaussian; and Monochromatic.

2 Draw Out the Lines

Apply a motion blur to draw the noise out into lines (this should seem familiar). We used an angle of -30 degrees and a distance of 25 pixels. These lines apply a sort of grain to the mud, making it look almost like soft stone.

3 Dry It Out

Now, we'll make the image start to look like mud with the Craquelure filter. This applies the crackling texture on top of the grain, adding a dry look to the detail texture. We used these Craquelure settings: Spacing, 15; Depth, 2; Brightness, 9. By playing with the spacing and depth, you can vary the look of your mud.

4 Get Rough

Next, use the texturizer filter to roughen up the image a bit. This makes it look less artificial by adding a semirandom texture. We used Sandstone with the following settings: Scaling, 100; Relief, 4; and Light Dir, Top. We kept the settings small—after all, this is merely to add some detail to the texture. We're not creating stone here!

5 Mix and Crop the Mud

Now, we'll apply some color to our drab, gray mud texture. Select Hue/Saturation from the Adjust menu and colorize the image. Check Colorize and then adjust the Hue setting to a nice muddy color. Play with the Saturation and Lightness controls for the best mud you can put together. We used: Hue, 34; Saturation, 32; Lightness, -35. Finally, crop the image (just as you did for the first texture) and save it.

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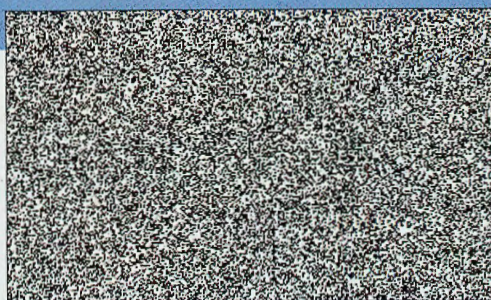
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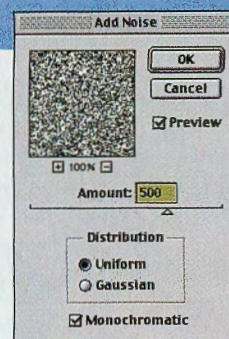
Texture 3—Cool Pool

1 That Noise Again

Yup, it's our old friend Add Noise again. Add a healthy dose of uniform, monochromatic noise—at an amount of 500 or so. We'll use this noise as the shadow texture on the bottom of the pool.

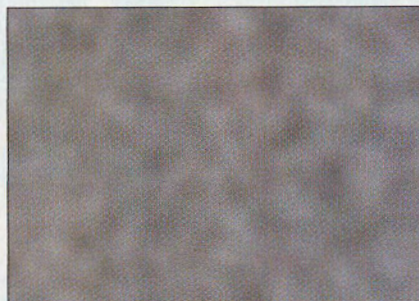


IT'S ALWAYS THE NOISE—this time, of the uniform variety.

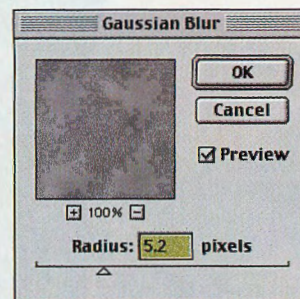


2 The Proper Focus

Now, apply a meaty blur by choosing Gaussian Blur from the Blur menu (under Filters). Use a medium radius—say, around 5 pixels. We used a value of 5.2—this will give us a nice mottled texture, simulating light and shadow as seen through water.

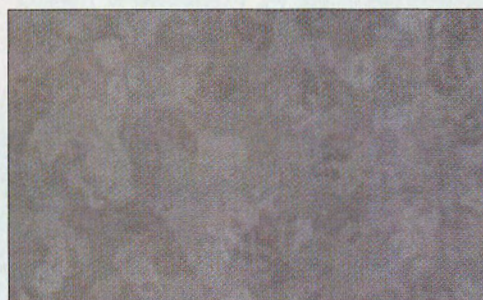


NO, YOU DON'T need an eye exam—it's just a shadow pattern.

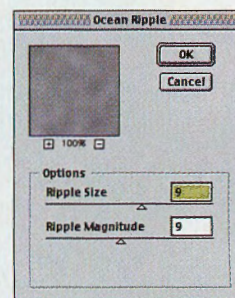


3 A Touch of Ocean

Use the Ocean Ripple filter from the Distort filter menu to wave things up a bit. To simulate the bottom of a swimming pool, you'll need to distort the image slightly. We used settings of 9 for both Ripple Size and Ripple Magnitude.



A TOUCH OF THE ocean adds realism to the water.

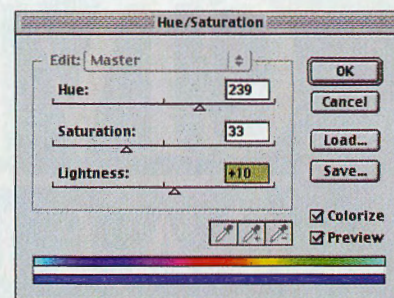


4 Color the Water

Back in the Hue/Saturation dialog box (under the Adjust submenu), add the proper color to the water by checking Colorize and adjusting the settings for a nice, blue water color. We used: Hue, 239; Saturation, 33; and Lightness, 10.

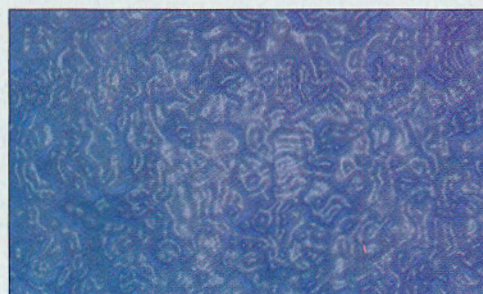


JUST THE RIGHT shade of blue will have our water looking irresistible!

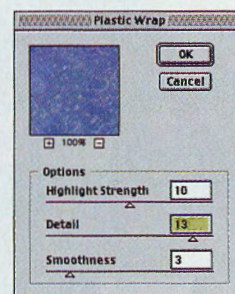


5 Fill It Up

Finally, use the Plastic Wrap filter (under the Artistic Filters menu) to put the reflective surface on the water. We used a highlight strength of 10 (it's a sunny day, after all); a detail level of 13; and a smoothness of 3 (this controls the amount of shiny surface "stretched" over the image). Good enough to swim in.



ADDING A LITTLE plastic wrap makes just about anything look shiny.

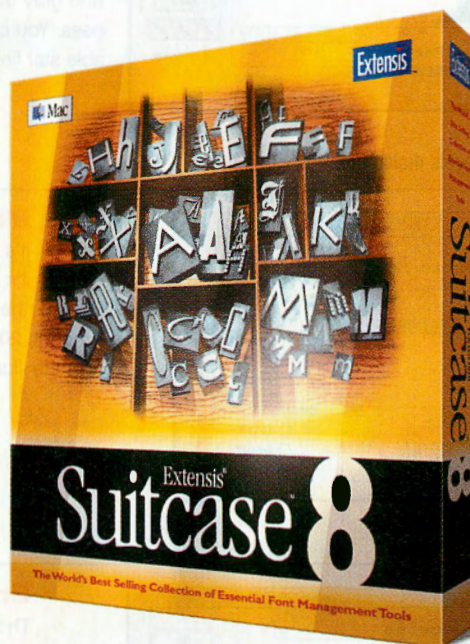


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(Including the logo in the corner of this ad)



8.6
Compatible

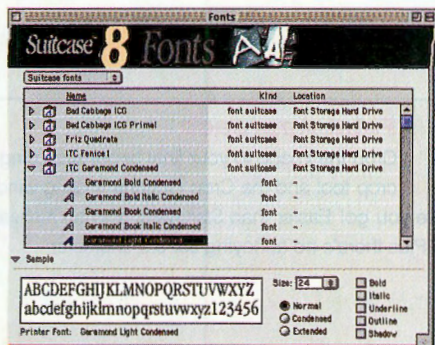


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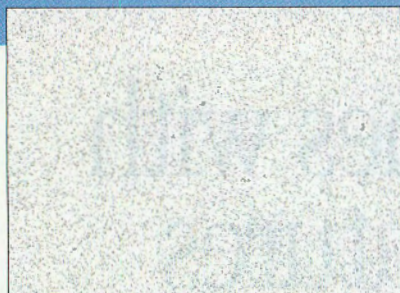
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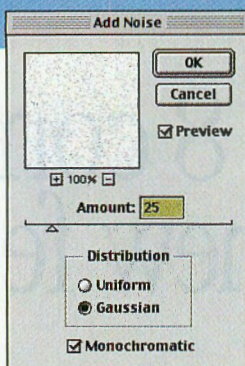
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Texture 4—Hyperspace

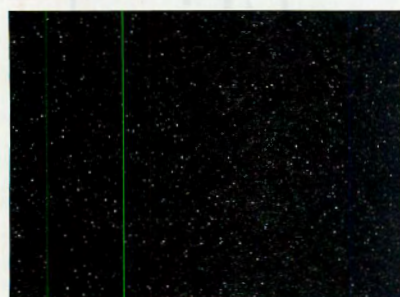


WHEN YOU INVERT this monochromatic noise, you will have a basic starry night.

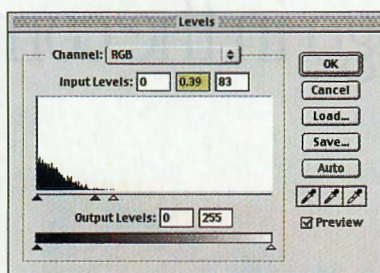


1 Add Noise

It all starts with the noise—Add Noise with the following settings: Amount, 25; Distribution, Gaussian; and Monochromatic. Select Invert from the Adjust submenu of the Image menu, and presto! You've got a basic star field.

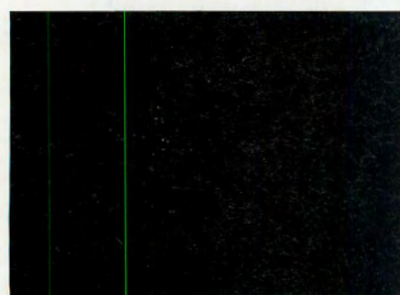


CONTRAST IS A GOOD THING—pump it up with the Levels dialog box.

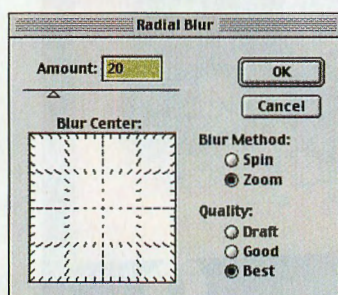


2 Make the Stars Come Alive

Use the Levels dialog box to make the contrast between black and white stand out. Bring the white point slider (the white triangle) down to the first marks in the histogram, and play with the gamma slider (the gray triangle) until you get stars with varying brightness. You *could* stop here and have a perfectly acceptable star field, but why not head into hyperspace?

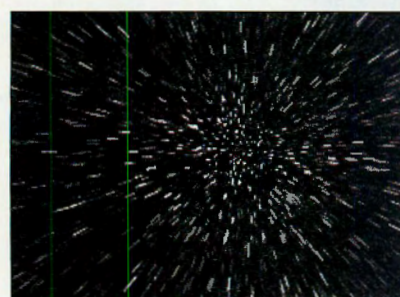


A LITTLE ZOOM BLUR goes a long way—in space!

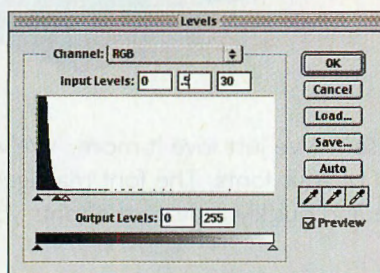


3 Make the Jump

It's starting to look like black-and-white wood, but it's not done yet. Use the Radial Blur filter (under Blur in the Filters menu) with the following settings: Amount, 20; Blur Method, Zoom; Quality, Best. This creates the illusion of movement toward a center point.

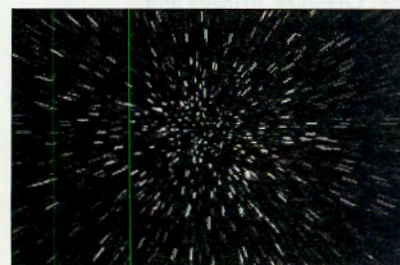


BY USING CLOSE BLACK, gamma, and white points, you keep it pretty much in black or white.

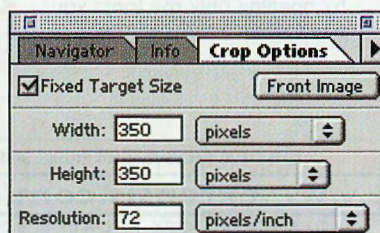


4 Brighten the Sky

Those stars are awfully dim, so use the Levels dialog box to make them jump back out. Bring the white point down quite a bit (to around 30), and then play with the gamma, bringing it down to around .5. These settings determine the character of your starfield.



USING A SET CROP SIZE, crop your image to leave out the imperfections around the edges. Compare with step 4 to see the effect of the crop.



5 Final Approach

Crop the image to your final target size using the crop tool and the Crop Options floating window. There you go! Easier than *Star Wars*, and a lot cheaper, too! Plus there's no annoying Jar Jar character.

**In real life, Duke Nukem
would be forced to attend
'sensitivity training'.**



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how to

Save Your Old Data with EtherTalk

by Buz Zoller



So you've just arrived home with that shiny new iMac or Power Macintosh G3, hurriedly unpacked it, and fired it up. It's fast! It's exciting! It blows away your previous Mac! But wait—all your data, preferences, and software are still on that old workhorse. You need that stuff, so you have to figure out how to move it across to the new Mac. This dilemma faces every computer user each time they replace their machine.

With Apple's newest offerings, though, the process is a bit trickier than it's been in

the past. The problem is that these new computers, the iMac and the blue-and-white G3, no longer include some of the features that have long been standard. Besides the obvious lack of a floppy drive, the new machines have neither built-in SCSI (so you can't use older hard drives or removable media devices) nor serial ports (so you can't set up a LocalTalk network, either). So how do you save your old files from oblivion?

There are a variety of ways to rescue your data. The method you choose depends upon the Mac model from which you are transfer-

ring data, how much data you need to transfer, and how much money you're willing to spend on extra adapters and devices. In most cases, though, an Ethernet network provides the simplest and most straightforward way to move your data. Here's how to set up a network and salvage those files.

What You Need

- Ethernet-capable Mac (see "Is Your Mac Ethernet Ready?" below)
- Crossover cable or Ethernet hub

Is Your Mac Ethernet Ready?

Your old computer *must* be Ethernet equipped—you'll need either a built-in Ethernet port or an add-on card. Every high-end PCI Power Macintosh (including the 7200, 7300, 7500, 7600, 8500, 8600, 9500, 9600, and G3) has built-in Ethernet capability. Some earlier models have built-in Ethernet as well, but require an AUI-to-RJ45 transceiver, available from either Asanté Technologies (408-435-8388, <http://www.asante.com>) or Farallon Communications (510-346-8001, <http://www.farallon.com>). All other models require an Ethernet card.

If you are unsure about your computer's Ethernet capability, look for a port sporting a logo that looks like a two-directional arrow, with a dotted line as the connector. If the port looks like an oversize phone jack, you're good to go. If it looks nothing whatsoever like a phone jack, it's almost certainly an AUI port, and you'll need a transceiver. If you don't have any connector with



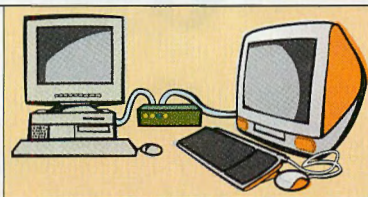
that logo, you'll need to install an Ethernet card. You can purchase these for nearly all Mac models for around \$50 to \$80. Not all such cards will work—you'll need one with Macintosh-specific software drivers. Check the vendor's Web site to make sure these are available

before you buy a card! If you're planning to donate your old computer to a school, the staff would *love* to have an Ethernet card already installed; if you're keeping it for yourself, you'll appreciate the high-speed network.

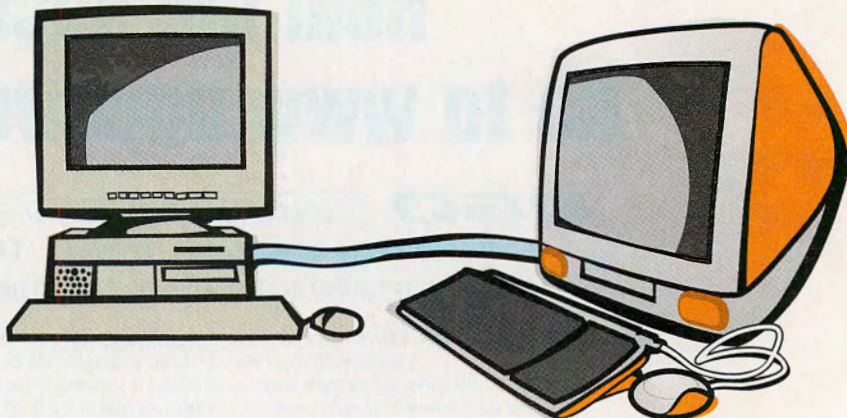
Some cards are labeled as "Fast Ethernet" or "100BaseTX." If you get one of these, the network will transfer data up to 10 times as quickly as it would with standard Ethernet. On the downside, these cards are usually more expensive and aren't readily available for pre-PCI Macs. Still, since the built-in Ethernet on translucent systems is 100BaseTX, if you can set up such a network you'll be finished *much* more quickly than with standard Ethernet.

1 Set Up the Network

If you already have a LAN set up via an Ethernet hub, then you're ready to go. If not, you can easily set up a temporary Ethernet network for under \$10. To do this, you'll need a special cable called a *crossover* (sometimes called a *cross cable*). This is different from a standard Ethernet cable (usually called a *patch cable*). In a crossover cable, the send and receive lines are crossed, so one machine's send goes to the other machine's receive. To create your Ethernet network with a crossover cable, simply plug one end into each of your Macs. You've just created a two-computer Ethernet network, and are ready for copying files (or head-to-head gaming, for that matter—but that's a different how-to).



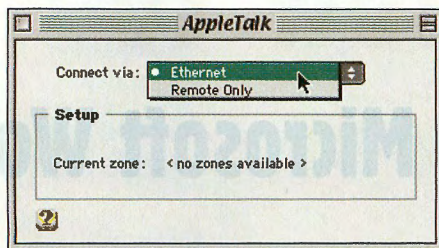
HUBS ARE GREAT if you're planning to set up a permanent network in your home, but a crossover cable is much cheaper.



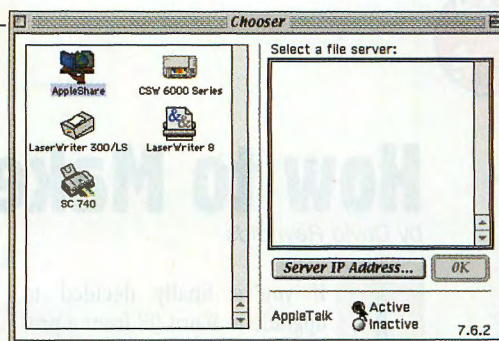
Illustrations by Chris Vanderhoof

2 Enable Ethernet on each Mac

With the release of Mac OS 8, the networking controls changed a bit. On a post-OS 8 machine, you enable Ethernet by opening the AppleTalk control panel and choosing Connect Via Ethernet. On a pre-OS 8 machine, open the Network control panel and click the EtherTalk icon once. On any system, make sure that AppleTalk is active by selecting the Active button in the Chooser.



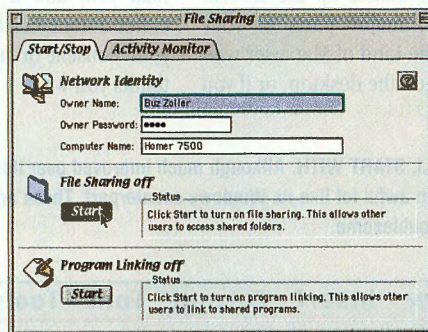
APPLETALK ISN'T LIMITED to the serial port these days—set it to use the Ethernet network we've set up.



OF COURSE, APPLETALK works much better when it's on!

3 Start File Sharing

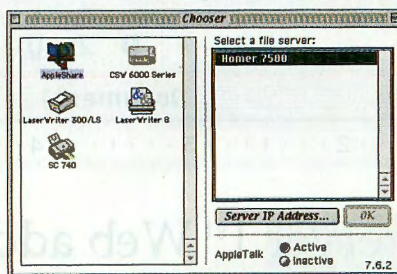
Open the File Sharing or Sharing Setup control panel (the name changed in OS 8) on your old computer and click the File Sharing Start button. Be sure to fill out Owner Name, Owner Password, and Computer Name, as this is how you will be logging in from your new machine. Wait until the control panel shows that File Sharing is on.



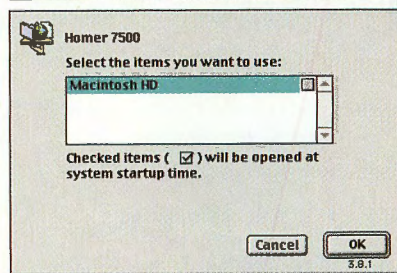
START FILE SHARING by clicking the Start button. Don't forget to fill in your network ID information!

4 Log In and Copy

To get to your old computer over the network, first open the Chooser on your new machine, then click AppleShare once. Your old computer's name should show up on the right side. Highlight it and click OK, then enter the name and password. When you click OK, you'll see a dialog box showing your old hard drives. Select your hard drive by highlighting it, but whatever you do, *don't* check the box next to the hard drive name! If you do, your Mac will try to mount the hard drive each and every time it starts up, which will get irritating in a hurry. As soon as you close this box and the Chooser, you'll see your old hard drive sitting on your desktop like any other hard drive. Simply drag items onto your new computer's hard drive and let it copy away. This will only work if your new hard drive has enough space for your old one. If it doesn't, you'll have to transfer your stuff piecemeal. Be patient—transferring about 3GB to our new G3 using this method took us around four hours. When you're done transferring, just drag the hard disk to the Trash (or put it away with Command-Y) as you would do with a removable disk.



YOUR OLD MACHINE is now visible from other machines on the network.



DON'T LET THE CHECKBOX TEMPT YOU—clicking it leads to a world of irritation.

Removable Media—Doing It the Old-Fashioned Way

There was a time when you could store all of your files on a handful of floppy disks. Those days are long gone, as documents have gotten much, much larger. It is not uncommon for a single picture from a digital camera to fill an entire floppy disk. This, along with the fact that Apple's newest offerings don't include a floppy drive, keeps floppy transfer from being a terribly effective solution. USB floppy drives usually don't support the older 400K or 800K disk sizes, so even many of those who still have Macs from that era won't be able to transfer their files on disks.

A more viable removable media option is the Zip drive. Zip drives are incredibly popular, and if you don't own one you probably know someone who can loan you one. However, all external Zip drives for the Mac prior to this year were SCSI devices, which you can't connect to one of the translucent machines without a SCSI card.



These days, though, one can purchase a USB Zip drive for about \$120. With one of these, you can just drag everything you need onto a series of Zip disks and copy them back onto the new machine. If you've got a new G3 and already have a SCSI Zip drive, consider getting a PCI SCSI card, which cost about \$50 to \$60 and will let you use all of your older SCSI devices.

Recordable CDs present a good but slightly more involved option. If you have access to a CD burner (about \$230), you can burn your data onto CDs, each of which stores 650MB. This option is tedious (you won't be able to do anything with your machine while it's burning the CDs), but it has the side benefit of making an unmodifiable backup of your data. After all, you *never* want to lose that old copy of Bolo (<http://www.lgm.com/bolo/intro>), do you?



how to

How to Make Microsoft Word Usable

by David Reynolds



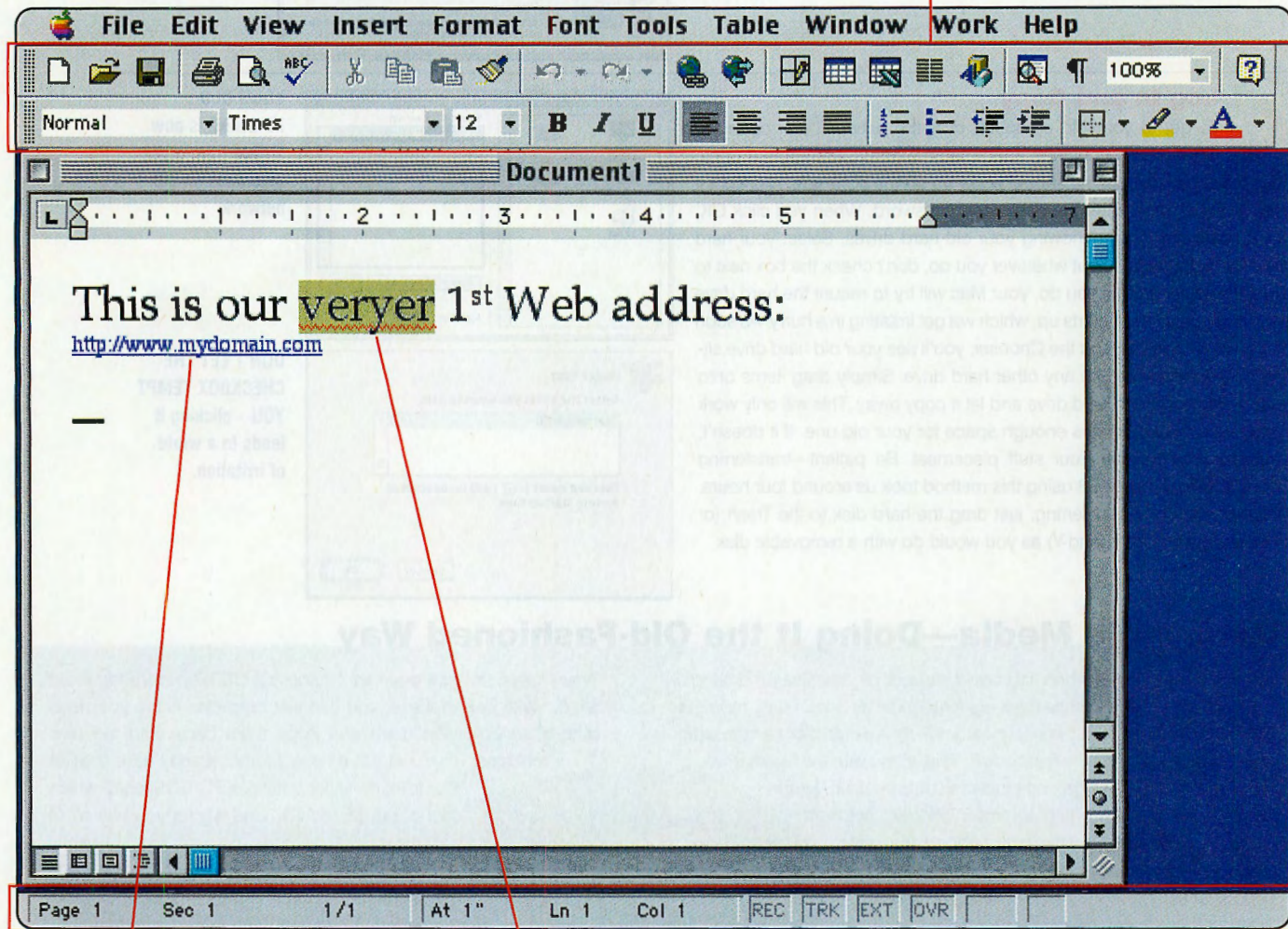
If you've finally decided to upgrade to Word 98 from a previous version of Word (or any other word processor, for that matter), you'll notice a few things immediately. First, toolbars clutter up the screen, blocking access to major parts of your desktop. If you're the kind of Mac user who likes to grab things off the desktop, or if you

just want that extra 50 pixels of space, toolbars can soon get in the way. But the annoyances don't stop at appearances. As you start using Word 98, you'll notice that it has an annoying habit of trying to be smarter than you, and it expresses this habit by either automatically formatting text without your consent or trying to select the text it thinks you want.

But fear not, brave reader. We've tackled the irritating Word beast and succeeded in taming it into a creature that behaves like a proper Mac application, letting the program's truly great features shine through. We'll show you how to do your own taming in five easy steps. Read forth, and learn how to make Word usable, if not (gasp) elegant.

THIS IS WHAT YOU'LL START WITH. Although much improved over its predecessor, Word 98 still looks an awful lot like its Windows counterpart. These are the parts that we find especially troublesome.

A TOOLBARS GALORE—We'll get rid of these Windows-esque toolbars to free up some screen real estate.



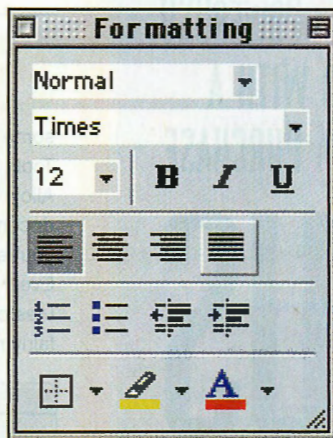
B URL MADNESS—We didn't make this bit of text blue and underlined—Word did it for us. We didn't want it that way. We'll show you how to prevent it.

C UNNATURAL SELECTION—Word has a nasty habit of automatically selecting an entire word, which we'll curb. We meant to select the last two characters here.

D POP-UP ROADBLOCK—About all the status bar does, practically speaking, is block access to pop-up windows. We'll make it go away for you.

1 Stop the Toolbar Madness

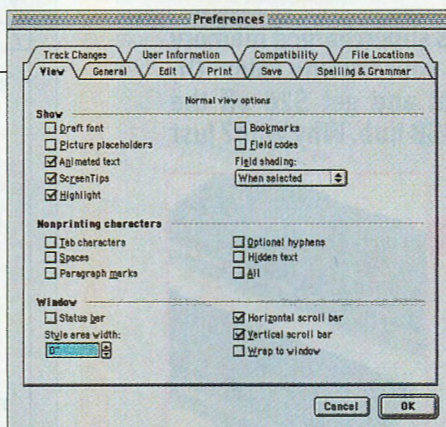
First, let's get rid of the toolbars that run across the top of the screen. Although toolbars can be useful, this is overkill. To remove the toolbars from the screen, just double-click the grip area on the left of the toolbar, and it will collapse into a floating palette. Now you can click the Close box on the palette to make it go away. We usually get rid of the Standard palette but leave the Formatting palette—it has some pretty good stuff. If you want one of your palettes back (or if you want to see just how nuts you can get with these things), select Customize from the Tools menu and you'll be able to enable or disable a bunch of toolbar options. Also, to save processor cycles (and wear and tear on your sanity), close the little assistant box.



THIS FLOATING FORMATTING PALETTE will replace the real estate-hogging toolbar across the top of the screen. Isn't that better?

2 Clean Up the Bottom

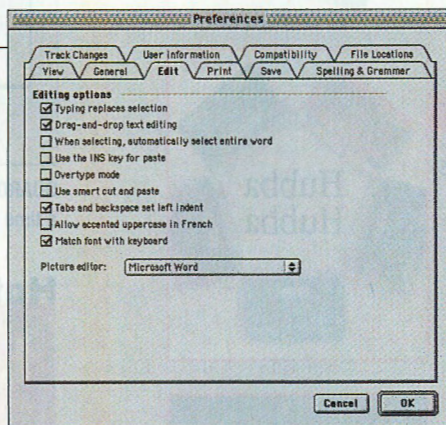
Although the status bar pretends to be important, its real job is to cover the bottom part of the screen—annoying for those of us who use pop-up windows. Fortunately, there's an easy fix for this—just turn it off. Select Preferences from the Tools menu (you'll be doing this a lot), then click the View tab (if it's not already showing). Uncheck the Status Bar checkbox in the lower left corner of the window and click OK. Poof! Problem solved.



YOU CAN TURN OFF THE STATUS BAR in this window. You can make a lot of other modifications here, too, but they probably aren't necessary for a basic Word warrior.

3 Think for Yourself

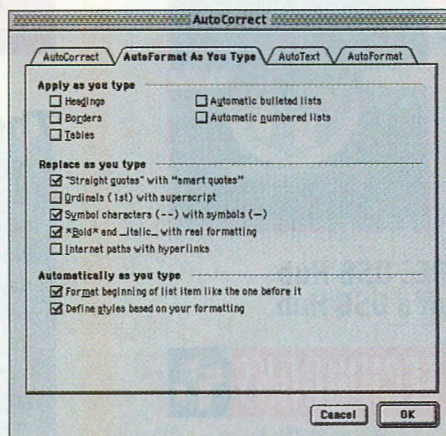
By default, Word automatically selects the entire word that you're selecting. This has to be one of the most annoying features ever invented. Fortunately, you can turn it off in the Preferences palette. Just select Preferences from the Tools menu, select the Edit tab, and uncheck the box next to When Selecting, Automatically Select Entire Word. Click OK. Suddenly, Word will behave like every other Mac text application out there and let you select a portion of a word.



ALTHOUGH IT'S MEANT TO SAVE YOU SOME WORK, the option to select the entire word is more annoying than helpful. Plus, double-clicking a word does the same thing.

4 Stop That!

As part of Word's attempt to integrate with the Internet, the program automatically converts any URL typed in a Word document into an actual hyperlink. No problem, except that it makes the URL uneditable, underlines it, and turns the text blue. Under the same AutoCorrect heading, Word also formats ordinals (numbers such as 3rd) with superscripting, and it automatically creates bulleted and numbered lists as you type. This kind of convenience can just get in the way, but fortunately you can stop the madness. Select AutoCorrect from the Tools menu, and select the AutoFormat As You Type tab. To clean up the mess, uncheck the following checkboxes: Headings, Borders, Tables, Automatic Bulleted Lists, Automatic Numbered Lists, Ordinals (1st) With Superscript, and Internet Paths With Hyperlinks. We left the smart quotes, bold and italic tag formatting, and hyphen-to-em-dash features turned on.



LEAVE THE EDITING TO THE HUMANS—Turn off various autocorrection features in the AutoFormat As You Type pane. You'll be glad you did!

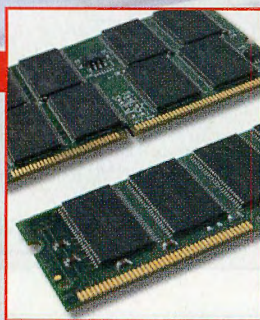
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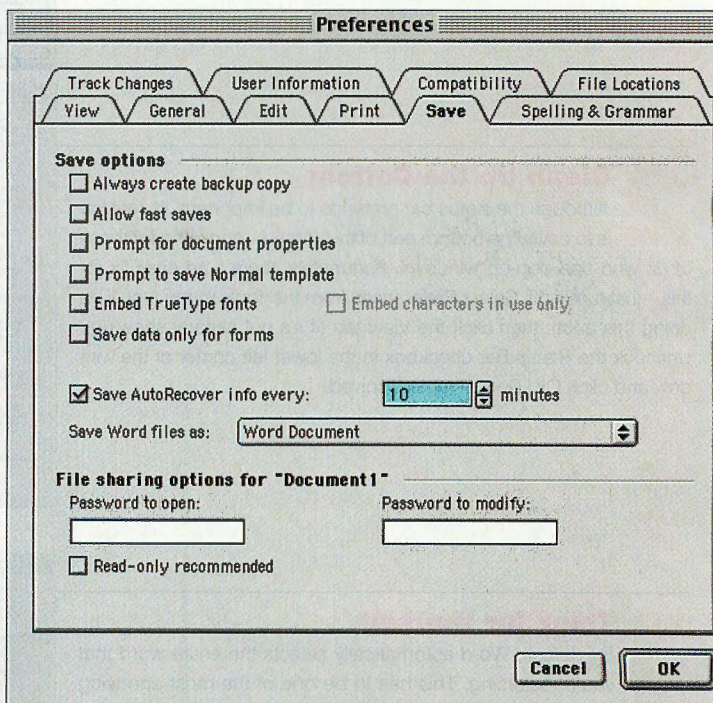
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5 Protect Yourself

As long as you're messing with Word's preferences, you can take a few extra measures to make sure that you're not going to lose some important documents down the road. Select Preferences from the Tools menu and click the Save tab. Under Save Options, uncheck the Allow Fast Saves box. This will make sure that Word saves the complete document each time, instead of just changes to the document. While you're here, make sure that the checkbox next to Save AutoRecover Info Every is checked, and the number is set to a reasonable amount—10 minutes or less, especially if you're paranoid. That way, you'll always have a fairly recent copy around.



GUARD AGAINST CRASHES by making Word save documents on a time schedule.

Hot Tip

If Microsoft Word crashes while launching (while the status line says something like "Building the fonts menu"), make sure that you don't have more than 128 fonts in your fonts folder. If you do, that's why Word is crashing. Trim down your fonts folder or invest in a font management program such as Adobe Type Manager to keep your fonts folder svelte.

The Word 5.1 Menus Option

If you're an old hand at Word (meaning you were using it in the early nineties), you can make Word 98 take a step back to look like Word 5.1. Just select Word 5.1 Menus from the View menu, and Word will transform itself to look a lot like Word 5.1 from the good ol' days—two new toolbars will appear at the top, and the menus themselves will transform back into their old selves. This option is great for those who want to go back to their old style of Word, plus it exposes a couple of Word features on the toolbar—namely, the alignment and paragraph spacing options.

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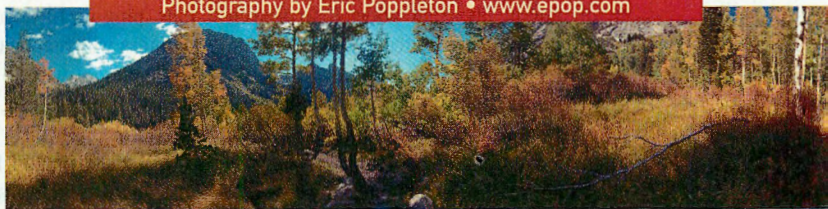
VR PanoWorx™



PANORAMIC

Panoramic movies show the viewer a full 360 degrees vista. The movie is built out of a series of still photographic images, stitched together to form a single flat panoramic image which is wrapped into a barrel and seamed together. The viewer is placed inside, seeing the interior of the barrel as a panoramic vista. The viewer can look left, right, up and down, turning around to see all views of the 360 degree panoramic scene.

Photography by Eric Poppleton • www.epop.com



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VR ObjectWorx™



OBJECT

Object movies feature multidimensional views of a particular object. The movie is constructed out of a series of still images (usually 36 for a single band, up to 684 for a full pole-to-pole multiband object movie) which it compiles to create the illusion of a three-dimensional subject. The viewer is given the impression that they are "holding" the object in their hand. They can then rotate it and even tumble it to view all of its sides from any direction.

Photography by Arcamedia • www.arcamedia.com



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VR SceneWorx™



SCENE

Multi-node movies are interactive virtual environments, referred to as "scenes," built by combining panoramas, objects, still images and linear movies. Nodes are joined together via linking tools which create hot spots used for navigating from node to node. The resulting movie allows the viewer to "walk" from room to room (each with 360 degree view), pick up and examine objects, watch linear movies and read text or view still images.

Photography by Kelly Bringhurst • www.pbproductions.com



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Learn how to strip banner ads out of Sherlock! Seriously!!



**FIND BANANA
PEELER 1.04,
LoadADrive 1.2,
and the hacked
Sherlock
Default file on
The Disc.**

Questions?

Submit technical questions or helpful tips directly via email (askus@macaddict.com) or c/o MacAddict, 150 North Hill Dr., Brisbane, CA 94005.

Q I dig Sherlock, but hate the banner ads it forces upon me. Is there any way to turn them off?

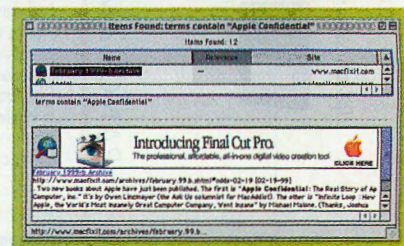
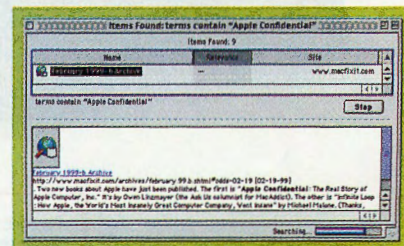
A Sherlock, Apple's cool replacement for the old Find File command, can search not only your hard drive but also the Internet. Introduced with Mac OS 8.5, Sherlock uses small plug-in files that allow it to search several Web sites at once. Many Web site operators feared that Mac users would never visit their sites if they could find what they wanted with Sherlock and link directly to the desired page. That would have translated into fewer eyeballs and consequently lower advertising revenue. To allay these fears, Apple devised a way to display banner ads within Sherlock's Items Found window. That satisfied the Webmasters, but what about us surfers? Now we have to contend with banner ads cluttering up our search results. Or do we?

Sherlock plug-in files are stored in the Internet Search Sites folder inside the System Folder. These are simply text files with a .src extension, plus type and creator codes of issp and fndf, respectively. Using a word processor, open a Sherlock plug-in as

a text-only file, then remove the two lines that begin "bannerStart" and "bannerEnd." Save the altered file as text-only, then use ResEdit or File Buddy to restore the type and creator codes back to issp and fndf. Now when Sherlock presents results for this Web site, it won't bother with the banner. You can repeat the preceding steps for each of the Sherlock plug-in files on your hard drive, or use the freeware Banana Peeler by Bob Schulze (<http://www.dnaco.net/~bschulze/files>). This freeware AppleScript slowly but surely hacks all the Sherlock plug-in files it finds and leaves you banner-free. If you ever avail yourself of the autoupdate feature in Sherlock, you'll have to hack the new plug-in files you download or the banners will reappear.

Apple got wise to these banner-bashing tricks and made a subtle change with Sherlock 2.1, which shipped with Mac OS 8.6. Hacked plug-in files still function, but instead of a blank space where the Web site's custom banner would have appeared, a default Apple banner shows up. The Sherlock Default file in the Preferences folder seems to control this. Using the same techniques described above, open this file with a text editor such as BBEdit, remove the two lines that begin "bannerStart" and "bannerEnd" (this strips out the Apple banners). Remove the two lines that begin "update" (this tells Sherlock not to look for updates to the Preferences file). Save the file, then change its type and creator codes to pref and fndf before putting it back into

the Preferences folder (you can also use Banana Peeler 1.04 to remove the banner commands from the Sherlock Default file, but it leaves the update commands untouched). Luckily, this month's disc includes a prehacked version of Sherlock Default. If this file causes any trouble, simply drag it to the Trash and Sherlock will create a pristine Preferences file the next time you launch the application.



BANISHING BANNERS in Sherlock is easy, if you know the secret.

Q I own a PowerBook 3400, and although it is a nice machine, it no longer has the power I need. I'm trying to find a reasonable way to upgrade my machine to a G3. I know that the PowerBook 1400 can be upgraded, but as of yet I haven't found a way to upgrade the 3400. Do you know of anything?

A Owners of the PowerBook 3400 have only one upgrade path of which I'm aware. Its motherboard case is **identical** to that of the first PowerBook G3 series. That means you can replace the original motherboard in the 3400, which bears a 180MHz to 240MHz PowerPC 603ev, with one from the first G3, which sports a 250MHz G3 processor. Galaxy Hardware

More on MenuFonts

In the August 1999 installment of this column, I recommended the \$39.95 MenuFonts from Dubl-Click Software (541-317-0355, <http://www.dubclick.com>) as a solution for anyone looking to display fonts in their own typeface in the font menus of most applications. Reader Joshua Rafofsky promptly wrote to tell fellow Mac addicts of a great deal. Extensis's Suitcase 8 includes MenuFonts as a bonus. "The upgrade price to Suitcase 8 (now fully 8.6 compatible) is only \$40, so some of your readers might consider this a much better deal. You get MenuFonts, plus Suitcase, plus the FontAgent utility, all for the price of one!" For the record, Suitcase 8 (Reviews, Sept/99, p68) costs \$89.95, but owners of any previous versions can upgrade for \$39.95, and owners of competing font managers can sidegrade for \$49.95.

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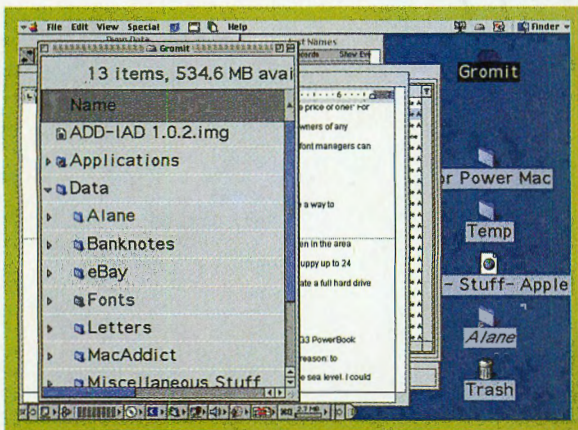
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Publishers (888-345-1817 or 541-345-1817, <http://www.galaxyhp.com>) charges \$799 for the G3 motherboard swap. That may seem like a lot, but keep in mind that the PowerBook G3 originally cost over \$5,500, and you retain the use of all internal PowerBook 3400 parts, including the 33.6-kbps Modem/10BaseT Ethernet Card but excluding 64MB and 128MB RAM modules. There are no 56-kbps internal modem upgrades available for the PowerBook 3400, although you can always add a PC Card modem (be sure to get one designed for Mac use that comes with the necessary driver files). If you never bought a modem in the first place, Galaxy stocks Apple's original internal 33.6-kbps Modem/10BaseT Ethernet Card for just \$79.

Q My mom has a Performa 6100 with Mac OS 8 installed. Is there a way to change the font size on the desktop icons so she can read them?

A Open the Appearance control panel and click the Fonts tab. Then in the area



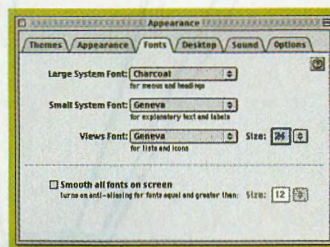
Disc Mounting Options

In the August 1999 column, a reader asked how best to install software from CDs since starting up with extensions off (to avoid potential conflicts) prevents the CD-ROM drivers from loading, and that means your discs can't mount on the desktop. I explained how to boot from CDs with valid System Folders and how to disable all but the necessary drivers for other CDs. Turns out there are two options I neglected to mention. First, for CDs with valid System Folders, just insert the CD in the drive, restart, and hold down the Shift key. The Mac starts up from the hard drive without loading any extensions, but since the bootable CD contains its own drivers, the disc appears on the desktop anyway. Neat, eh? For discs without valid System Folders, start up with the Shift key down, then run Dieter Spaar's freeware utility called LoadADrive (<http://www.mirider.com/freemac.html>). It loads the necessary driver on an ad hoc basis and automatically mounts the CD in the drive.

marked Views Font, select the font and size that you want.

Cranking that puppy up to 24 points sure makes things easy to see and read, but it can be awkward to navigate a full hard drive at that large a size. Experiment with various settings to find a happy balance for your mother.

Q I'm contemplating buying a new blue-and-white Power Mac G3. One thing that distresses me, however, is the lack of serial ports on this minitower. I have several old serial devices, including a modem and a printer, and I don't want to be forced to replace them. What are my options?



USE THE APPEARANCE CONTROL PANEL to crank up the size of the fonts in the Finder.

A One option is to buy a PCI card such as KeySpan's SX Serial Card (510-222-0131, <http://www.keyspan.com>), which adds either two or four serial ports (\$199 or \$299, respectively) that are functionally identical to the Mac's original serial ports. The downside to this approach, aside from the relatively high cost of the card, is that it uses up one of the Power Mac G3's precious PCI slots.

A cheaper solution is to buy a \$49.95 Stealth Serial Port from GeeThree.com (650-328-8091, <http://www.geethree.com>). This small card effortlessly plugs into the modem slot (if you bought your Mac with the optional internal modem installed, you'll have to decide between it and the card) and leaves your PCI slots free for other uses. It provides a single mini DIN 8 serial connector that functions just like a standard Mac serial port. You don't need special drivers since the card supports the Communications Toolbox, LocalTalk, and externally clocked peripherals such as printers and MIDI devices. Of course, since the Stealth Serial Port adds only a single port, you are limited to having just one device connected at a time, unless you add an external serial switch box such as GeeThree's \$19.95 ThreePort.

The Stealth Serial Port is a pretty slick little device, and GeeThree.com plans to have a version for the iMac by the time you read this. The iMac version also requires you to remove the internal modem, but that's not a problem if you have an Ethernet connection to the Internet (through a company LAN, cable modem, or ISDN modem), if you don't need Internet access, or if you absolutely must have LocalTalk networking or MIDI device capability instead.

Banishing Busy Signals

In my September 1999 column, I recommended HotCall from Command Communications (800-288-6794 or 303-751-7000, <http://www.command-comm.com>), as a solution for never missing incoming phone calls while your single phone line is tied up with a modem connection. HotCall is a hardware device that costs \$79.95 and works in conjunction with your phone company's Call Waiting service. Several readers wrote to inform me of a software-based solution called Internet Call Manager. First you sign up for the Call Forward Busy option with your local phone company (monthly cost averages \$2 to \$5), and then whenever someone calls you and you're online, they get seamlessly transferred to the ICM server. The server, knowing you are online, pops up a message on your screen with the caller's information. You can ignore the call or instruct the ICM server to play a prerecorded message (either "I'll call you back" or "Try me again later"). An advanced version of ICM—not available in all locations—gives you the option of answering the call. Internet Call Manager service is available from various providers (877-463-6426, <http://www.internetcallmanager.com> or <http://www.bbn.com/icm>) at a cost of about \$5 per month. Personally, I still think the hardware solution is more elegant because it keeps you in control of your phone calls, doesn't require additional software, and doesn't come with yet another monthly charge.

A sample chapter of Owen W. Linzmayer's new book, *Apple Confidential: The Real Story of Apple Computer, Inc.*, is available as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file on the MacAddict CD.

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APS I 9.1GB LVD 10K	10000	499.95	569.95
APS Q 9.1GB Ultra 160m LVD 10K	10000	569.95	639.95
APS ST 9.1GB LVD 10K	10000	499.95	569.95
APS I 18GB LVD	7200	649.95	719.95
APS Q 18GB Ultra 160m LVD	7200	729.95	799.95
APS ST 18GB LVD	7200	649.95	719.95
APS I 18GB LVD 10K	10000	879.95	959.95
APS Q 18GB Ultra 160m LVD 10K	10000	969.95	1039.95
APS ST 18GB LVD 10K	10000	799.95	869.95
APS I 36GB LVD	7200	1199.95	1269.95
APS ST 36GB LVD	7200	1199.95	1269.95
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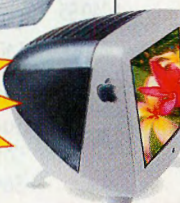
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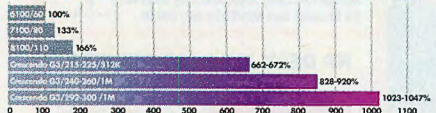


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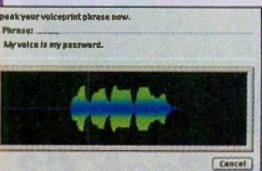
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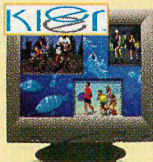
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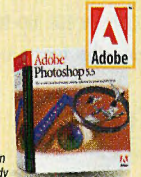


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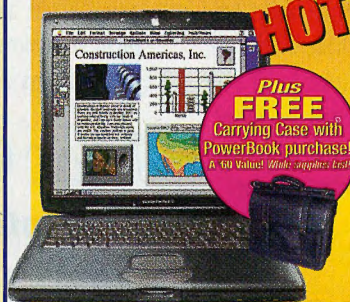
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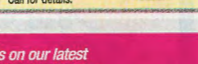
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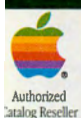
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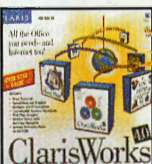


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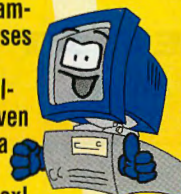
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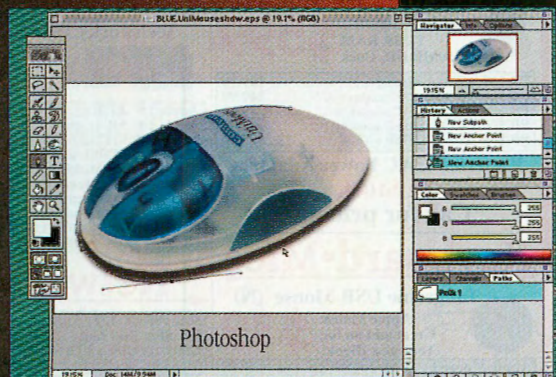


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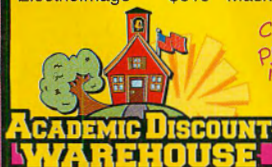
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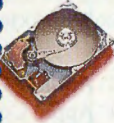
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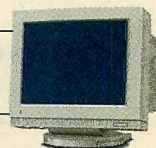
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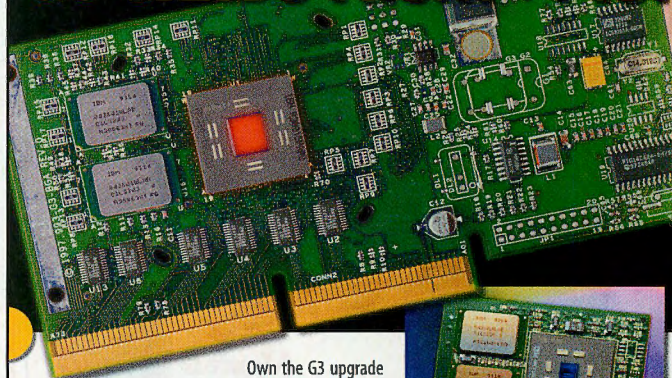
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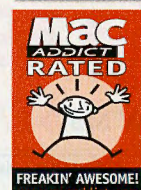
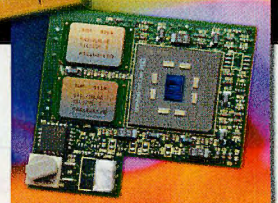
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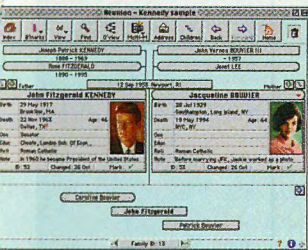
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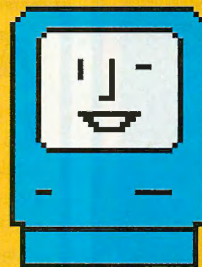


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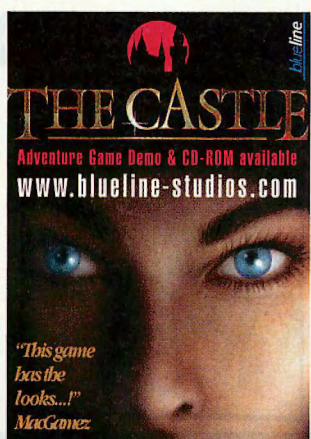


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DOING THE RIGHT THING

Care to play a joke on some unsuspecting Windows user? Direct them to check out <http://www.yaronat.com/mac/os8/index.htm> and watch the fun. The page uses a JavaScript trick to make the Web browser look as though it's unloading Windows and replacing it with the Mac OS. Good for hours of laughs, but don't stand too close when your victim...er, friend thinks you've actually tricked them into deinstalling their OS. We're still waiting on a site that will actually make the conversion.

Make Mine with Testosterone

Responding to an outcry from those in the laptop-craving world concerned with being seen as sissies, Apple is preparing to release the iBook Manliness Kit. Here's what's inside:

- Two cans of spray paint—one gray, one black—to paint the iBook in more manly colors
- A silhouette mud-flap emblem of a silver woman to glue over that lame Apple logo
- A "Hey, baby" sound sample to use as a system beep
- Twin cup holders
- A quick-inject ampul of testosterone as a last-resort measure

The kit will be featured as an iBook add-on in the Apple store for \$39. Unfortunately, it won't work with other Mac models.

SPEAKING OF THE EVIL EMPIRE

A portion of the U.S. justice system has hit a limit with Microsoft Word, and expressed its displeasure with the Redmond bit bucket. It seems that the word processor chokes when it tries to count words in footnotes larger than 14,000 words. Not one to peeve the justice department, Microsoft says it's working on a fix to the problem. This leaves us scratching our heads over which is worse—Microsoft, or a legal system that needs documents with footnotes of 14,000-plus words?

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Automatic Force Quit

In early August, Microsoft issued a challenge to all hackers out there—just try to break into its 2000 test computer. Sounds like a challenge that hackers would love to take up, right? Problem is, Microsoft has apparently implemented a new strategy, dubbed the "poison pill," to foil hackers—make the server crash before they have time to break in and steal files. The beta server crashed several times (as its logs show), denying access to everyone—including those with nefarious schemes. The challenge is ongoing, however, if you'd like to take a crack at it. Check out <http://www.windows2000test.com>. And yes, this is a true story.

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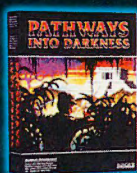
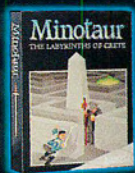
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